

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

September 19, 1989

DON HINES

Chairman

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
SEPTEMBER 19, 1989

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 19, 1989**

Chairman Dr. Don Hines Presiding:

Tuesday, September 19, 1989

James Jenkins
Norman McCall
Warren Pol

Secretary Virginia Van Sickle was also present.

Dr. Don Hines called to order the special meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Four members present, represents a quorum.

Dr. Hines announced meeting was called to discuss the Black Drum Fishery Management Plan and Stock Assessment.

Secretary Van Sickle commented that the purpose of the meeting was two fold. First is to focus on the Black Drum, a close relative of the Red Drum, a fish that has experienced a very dramatic increase in harvest. Second is to discuss possible emergency action. A Finfish Panel is currently looking at all the different marine finfish and specific panels have been set up to look at Black Drum as an individual species. The makeup of the panels is as follows:

1. Stock Assessment Group headed by Dr. Richard Condrey
2. Technical Working Group headed by Daniel Beckman, LSU Coastal Fisheries Institute
3. Ad Hoc Industry Group headed by Harlon Pierce

Secretary Van Sickle explained that the increase in landings of Black Drum has prompted the department to consider interim measures as well as long term management measures. The Stock Assessment Panel, the Ad Hoc and the Technical Working Groups are developing, with industry input, a management plan for this fishery. The Black Drum management plan is scheduled for completion in January of 1990 and it could take up to seven months from now before any regulations could be implemented as part of the long term plan. The concern is whether in the interim the department needs to take any action or can the department afford to wait seven months or longer to come up with the final management measures. Secretary Van Sickle explained that the department was very comfortable with the long term management plan because of the

tremendous input from the industry. She stated that interim management measures should not have any bearing on the plan produced in January and could be undone immediately. With the fish being over-fished at the rate it has been during the last several years, does the department want to do something in the interim, and this is ultimately what the department will be recommending today. Secretary Van Sickle turned the meeting over to Dr. Jerry Clark, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries.

Dr. Clark reported that the first speaker will be the Chairman of the Marine Finfish Panel, Dr. Chuck Wilson. Under the Marine Finfish Panel is the Black Drum Ad Hoc Committee and Mr. Harlon Pierce is the Chairman who will speak on the commercial fishery as it has developed and as it currently exists in the state. Following will be Mr. Mark Hilzim who will describe and discuss the recreational fishery. Dr. Richard Condrey, Chairman, Stock Assessment Group - Black Drum, will present the technical information. Dr. Clark then gave a brief non-technical description of the Black Drum. It is a rapidly growing fish and in the first year it probably reaches twelve inches, second year seventeen inches, third year twenty one inches, by the fourth twenty five inches. By the end of four years this fish will weigh about seven and a half pounds. After five years the growth of the fish slows down but it continues and the state record for Black Drum is seventy seven pounds. At age five the fish becomes mature and almost all five year old fish are spawnable fish. It remains reproductively active throughout its life so this fish makes a contribution to the spawning stock from about age five until it dies, upward of over forty years of age. The spawning stock itself is composed of these fish between the ages of five and forty years, and each year you have a spawn associated with a very large number of fish of a very great number of ages and to maintain the stock at a reproductive rate, that age structure is going to have to be maintained. It means that you are going to need large numbers of fish over a great number of ages. You cannot rely upon a single age class or even a few age classes for this fish to be reproductively successful. What ever is done is going to have to maintain the diversity of ages in the fish explained Dr. Clark. Just like red drum this fish has two parts to its life cycle. It spends the early part of its life history in the estuaries, probably up to the age of four when it begins to move offshore. There is some question about when it begins to move off shore just like in Red Drum what happens to the "teenagers" is an important question, an unresolved question and a question that the scientists are struggling with. Once it begins to move offshore, just like Red Drum, it shows up in the ocean in large schools, which are easily identifiable. Finally and probably one of the most important issues with respect to this fish is that it is fished at every portion of its life history commented Dr. Clark. The fish are showing up in gill nets as age zero fish in the commercial fishery, haul seine fishery on larger fish, purse seine fishery offshore and a recreational fishery of significant size (1986

recreational fishery caught the same number of fish as the commercial fishery). The fish is harvested at a very small size for recreational fishery and most of the catch probably takes place before the fish are two years old. This fish is susceptible to a fishery throughout its life cycle which creates a problem for the fish concluded Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark then introduced Dr. Chuck Wilson, Chairman of the Finfish Panel.

Dr. Wilson reported that the Finfish Panel was established by Secretary Van Sickle to recommend fishery management policies to the department and to develop fishery management plans to recommend to the department for implementation on various fish species. A technical working group was assembled to formulate species profiles of priorities species. The two groups work together to develop management recommendations for individual species. The technical working group on Black Drum has been meeting for the past year and has gathered all the available scientific and landings data on the fish. The information has been reviewed several times by the stock assessment group in several committee meetings, both alone and jointly with the Black Drum technical working group. The two groups are working towards a January 1, 1990, deadline that was established by the department to develop a management plan and looking forward to presenting the result in late December concluded Dr. Wilson.

Mr. Harlon Pierce, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Advisory Committee, addressed the Commission. This committee has as its members commercial Black Drum fishermen, seafood dealers and processors. The committee reports directly to the Saltwater Finfish Advisory Panel. Mr. Pierce updated the Commission on the progress of the Black Drum Management Plan. The advisory committee met for the first time on August 31, 1989, in Baton Rouge. A chairman and secretary were elected and a letter was drafted to Secretary Van Sickle at the first meeting. A second meeting was held one week later and a draft report was prepared by the committee (copies of letter and report were given to the Commissioners). The letter basically asked Secretary Van Sickle to allow the committee to do their job and explained how important this was to the industry that they get involved and help in the management process. At the second meeting on September 6, 1989, in Baton Rouge the work began with the draft report being prepared. Mr. Pierce explained the contents of the draft report to the Commission. The committee is waiting on the technical data results from the scientific group so they can act upon it and have something in place for January 1, 1990. The committee also feels strongly that they must contribute to the plan and if there are no short term measures necessary, as Mr. Pierce is being told by the scientific committee, the committee should have the time to do their job. Mr. Pierce commented that the Black Drum Advisory Committee is aware that adjustments will have to be made in this fishery. The committee is fully prepared to act with all speed necessary to make the adjustments and recommends that the

Commission does not propose any short term stop gap measures before January 1, 1990, which would hinder the ability of the committee to develop a plan. Based on the committee's observations, in the field, the Black Drum fishery is not on the verge of collapse and can wait for a plan to develop advised Mr. Pierce. This is the first fishery management plan developed by the new management system which involves user groups and scientists and if the Commission were to enact any measures without going through the formal advisory panel and committee system the ability of the Black Drum Advisory Committee to act could be seriously damaged. The fishermen and processors who would see this would not support the system created by Secretary Van Sickle. A closure or any size restrictions for the last three months of this would year would not significantly help the fishery but would send a clear message that the advisory panel committee system is worthless. The committee is pleased that scientific management and user group involvement are coming into the fishery and realize that sacrifices will have to be made. The committee hopes that scientists and user group can cooperate with each other for the benefit of the resource concluded Mr. Pierce.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the committee was waiting on the technical committee to give some recommendations.

Mr. Pierce answered that the committee is waiting on the biological information.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the committee was aware that the landings on the Black Drum have gone up like eighteen fold in the last few years.

Mr. Pierce answered that the committee was aware that this year the landing data was down and the fishery is probably about half of where it was last year and that the data this year, according to the scientists, the landings this year shown that there is not a problem in the short term. There is time to do some things and with the groups that are in place Mr. Pierce knows that a plan can be formulated by January 1, 1990. If there are any stop gap measures there will be problems because the industry will take this as a slap in the face advised Mr. Pierce.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the NMFS landing charts (1962-88) show a tremendous increase in Black Drum and realizes that the committee needs scientific data for the plan but the Commission is charged to protect, conserve and replenish the resource and it is the duty of the Commission to impose temporary measures if needed.

Mr. Pierce responded that the committee was told by the scientific community that as of June of this year the catch was 2.6 million pounds and because the catch rate was down this year that no short term measures should be necessary to hinder the development of this plan.

Mr. Jenkins asked about the price of the fish (twenty cents a pound), and makeup of the committee (no recreational people).

Secretary Van Sickle pointed out that whatever is done short term does not have any bearing on the long term work that is being done by the fishermen, LSU, etc. In addition to the comments from the Stock Assessment Panel this fishery is traditionally active in the spring, dies down during the summer, kicks back up in the fall and if it increases again in the fall Secretary Van Sickle's alternative would be to take emergency action to shut the fishery down. This is the only emergency action that the Secretary has the authority to do but the Commission has the authority to impose size limits, quotas, or a closure on an emergency basis.

Concluding Mr. Pierce stated that the committee is only asking for the time to do their job and work with the department.

Dr. Clark commented that he has been involved in fishery management plans for several years and in the entire time period he has never been involved in a process where an attempt has been made from day one to bring everyone into the process and make them a part of what comes out of it. Dr. Clark supports this completely and believes this structure is the best way to do it.

Mr. Mark Hilzlim addressed the Commission on the recreational fishery of the Black Drum. This is a very considerable recreational fishery and there was a time, not in the too distant past, where this fishery was, probably in total landing, more of a recreational fishery than a commercial fishery. Mr. Hilzlim commented that to say anything more on this fishery, at this point, would be conjecture on his part but in the process of trying to pull together some information, as the other committees are doing, and provide it to the Commission in the very near future so that the Commission will be able to use it in the efforts to put together a management plan that not only helps the Black Drum industry but also helps the recreational industry. The GCCA

has been monitoring all the indicators, casually, for about eighteen months and see a lot of danger signals going off (rapid increase in harvest, biological characteristics, strong market demand, great improvement in catching technology being made every year). Mr. Hilzlim hopes that the Commission will start getting something done right now to make sure that this fishery does not get in the same situation that the Red Fish fishery did.

Dr. Richard Condrey presented the Stock Assessment materials to the Commission. Dr. Condrey is Chairman of the Stock Assessment Subcommittee of the Finfish Panel. Dr. Condrey's focus has been on the long run and long term of this species. There are records of fish that are forty two years old. This is a type of stock that can provide the state with a strong fishery, and provide the

individual fishermen with a relatively high rate of catch per unit of effort under equilibrium conditions. The Black Drum is not the kind of species that can be fished heavily but can only be fished lightly especially if it is fished across all age classes. Mr. Condrey provided the Commissioners with a copy of a memorandum that he had written to the members of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups which is a consensus of what is known and not known about Black Drum and what the primary conservation standard is in this species. A preliminary draft of the Stock Assessment Report was put together by Dr. Condrey on Friday and a copy was given to Dr. Clark. Dr. Condrey gave the Commission a synopsis of the accomplishments and conclusions of the August 31, 1989 meeting of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups. This is not a stock which can endure heavy fishing pressure and this species requires cooperative management by the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council because its life history features foster migration through several jurisdictions. Dr. Condrey then presented overheads showing fish age and growth on Black Drum and explanation of each. Concluding Dr. Condrey at this point there are indications that fishing mortality on the juvenile fish may be very high and conflicting and unconfirmed reports of what fishing mortality is on the adult fish. This is an arena of active scientific investigations stated Dr. Condrey.

Dr. Jerry Clark then answered a question that Mr. Pierce had asked about what happened at the last stock assessment meeting. There were three important results of the meeting and the first and most important one, in Dr. Clark's opinion, is that there was a unanimous opinion that the stock is over fished. The second important set of discussions at the meeting was what in the long run should be done about this. The goal is to maintain the spawning stock in the future. The third and important thing was a discussion about whether to let the process go as is and let the plan due January 1, 1990 get in place, go through the regulatory amendment and in six months have something in place on a permanent basis or whether or not to do an interim measure and let that also continue and then replace it in a permanent basis. As Dr. Clark recalls it the discussion was the following: "On the basis of the data in hand at that day and on the basis of the conclusions there was no interim measure recommended other than to continue the process, to continue getting data, continue to analyze what we are doing and if something happened or if something untold happened or landings were higher than we thought they were, were going to be higher than we thought they were, we were monitoring it, and something happened that the group wanted to be reassembled and then make a further determination at that point". This was Dr. Clark's recollection of the meeting but he did point out that there was one abstention to this and it was himself because his background tells him that if a group of scientists reached the unanimous conclusion that a fishery is over fished and probably has been over fished for four or five years and also reaches the conclusion that it is a very delicate fishery then five years from now, or ten

years from now we may pay back in the lack of fish for the actions that are taken and he does not want to participate in this. He does not choose to participate in a process that concludes unanimously by a group of scientists that a stock is over fished and it will be continued for six or seven months.

Chairman Hines commented that the Commission does have the opportunity in January to take emergency action and put a long range plan into effect on an emergency basis and then proceed with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Dr. Clark pointed out that Dr. Hines was absolutely right that the Commission and Secretary Van Sickle have emergency authority but they may not have emergency authority over the kinds of things that the group might recommend.

Mr. Hilzim stated that several years ago a resolution that included drum, speckled and sheepshead giving the management standard as a 20% standing stock biomass target which was the target for redfish and it was not discussed in the new conservation standard how that relates or will be achieving that goal or higher goal or is that goal now an irrelevant way of looking at things.

Mr. Condrey answered the reason the conservation standard is preambled by a statement that is being examined is to make sure that it is conservative enough.

Dr. Clark informed the Commission of the alternatives that are facing the Commission. The Commission has a lot of choices and according to law the emergency authority is limited, both the Commission and Secretary, and each has separate emergency authority. The Secretary is only limited to closure. The authority of the Commission is somewhat broader. The Commission can close the fishery, set a season which amounts to a closure, set size limits or do a combination of these. This is the only authority that the Secretary and Commission has on an emergency basis. The only other thing that the Commission might want to speculate about and that is being sensitive to some of the comments that were stated today to make people part of the process and they can be made part of the emergency process also. It is possible that the Stock Assessment group could be reassembled and go after the information one more time, pass the information off to the Marine Finfish Panel and to the Black Drum Ad Hoc Committee then come back to the Commission as soon as possible with another emergency recommendation suggested Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark recommended not to close the fishery and believes that a closure almost at any point in time is a management failure. Sometime a closure is all that can be done but does not believe Louisiana is in that situation right now. Dr. Clark cannot recommend no action for the reasons he has given already. Given the restrictions that the Legislature has put upon the Commission Dr. Clark thinks the only one that makes sense is try to keep the fishery open and on

the basis of some of the testimony given today to impose a size limit to try and reduce the harvest and slow it down over the next six months and when the final plan is in place damage will not have been done. Dr. Clark recommended that for both the recreational and the commercial fishery that a sixteen to twenty four inch slot limit be imposed on an emergency basis and that only fish in that size range be maintained. This will reduce, in the short run, the commercial harvest by something less than fifty percent. It will reduce the recreational harvest by something in excess of fifty percent because the target range for recreational fish is in that small size limit. As soon as a plan is retrieved from the process that has been set up Dr. Clark recommends removing his recommendation as soon as possible.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that one of the things that was happening as far as this years landings, they were suppose to be less than last year and this was one of the reason that it appeared that no interim action was needed, was based on poundage of fish (2.6 million pounds) which was a little less in poundage. The information has been received on the numbers of fish harvested and the numbers harvested was roughly half of what it was the year before at this point, right on track with 1988 landings. A closure or quota could be imminent and the department is trying to avoid shutting the fishery down. This is the basis for the recommendation. The numbers of fish are right on track, poundage, targeting puppy drum, and the statistics are now showing that.

Dr. Hines called for comments from the people attending the meeting. The following addressed the Commission.

Harry Brown, Cameron, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Brown believes that more information is needed concerning the biological statistics on the fish. He would appreciate the Commission to take into consideration a season on the fishery and believes if this would have been done on the redfish Louisiana would have been a lot better off.

Mitch Chevalier, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Chevalier thinks the Commission should leave it up to the Black Drum Task Force to give opinions in the matter. Mr. Chevalier is a alternate of the Limited Entry Task Force.

Steven Dargis, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Dargis is a member of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Committee. He was wondering why no one on the ad hoc committee was contacted about putting a size limit on the fish and it seems like all the work the committees have done is fruitless. Secretary Van Sickle assured him that it won't in six months.

Peter Gerica, President Lake Pontchartrain Fish Association, Member of the Finfish Task Force and Concerned Shrimpers - Mr. Gerica stated that there are things on paper that do not

necessarily figure out in the wild and thinks the committees should look more into the wild aspect. He questioned how a person is suppose to fish a fish between fourteen and twenty somewhat inches and if this is what is going to happen you just might as well close the fishery down.

Craig B. Borges, Metairie, LA, Seafood Wholesaler Dealer Processor - Mr. Borges believes that if you are to going to catch the fine line between not reproducing to everything reproducing then the fishery will run into problems down the road. He is in favor of a long term management plan but do no do anything until January.

Stanley D. Rando, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Rando asked the Commission not to take any harsh action and shut the fishery down right now. He asked that the Finfish board complete their job and make recommendations. Mr. Rando was also appointed to the Limited Entry Board and he feels like he would be wasting his time if the Commission killed the Finfish Task board.

Donald Lirette, Dulac, LA, Member of Shrimp Task Force, Member of The Gulf of Mexico Program (EPA Program) - Mr. Lirette believes the recreational and commercial conflict is the issue and he does not support Dr. Clark's recommendation. If this type of recommendation comes down from the Wildlife and Fisheries Mr. Lirette does not care to be on the Shrimp Management Task Force if his time is going to be undermined by the department. The biologists who are putting out the data have got to look at it in a non-political way and do what is good for the species and the fishermen of Louisiana are tired of being stepped on concluded Mr. Lirette.

Henry Truelove, Charenton, LA, Commercial Fisherman and Processor - Mr. Truelove asked Secretary Van Sickle and Mr. Jenkins if they thought the marine finfish panels will work. Both answered yes, but Mr. Jenkins does not include the action that is being considered today as part of what needs to be done on a short term basis. Mr. Truelove asked if the federally caught fish in the federal waters are recorded in the NMFS landings and if the inshore is closed and has a slot limit will that size limit apply also in federal waters. Secretary Van Sickle answered to all fish that are landed in Louisiana. Mr. Truelove asked the Commission to give the panels two weeks to thirty days to look at all the scientific data and come back to the Commission and report before action is taken. Mr. Truelove believes the panels will work and the people that serve on the panels believe it also and if given the opportunity he believes Louisiana will see a new direction in fisheries.

Lawrence Stipelcovich, Empire, LA, Vice President Plaquemine Parish Commercial Fishermen, Delta Fisheries, Advisory Board on Red Fish Panel Gulf Council, etc. - Mr. Stipelcovich has been fishing for forty years. He stated that there is more redfish than Drum

right now and it cannot be fished. The way of collecting data has got to change to be able to develop fisheries where it can work. Mr. Stipelcovich believe the hook and line method to catch fish is the best for data collection and there is no way it can be done with purse seine. He knows there is a problem with the drum fishery but thinks in the future everybody should get together and work together (biologists, commercial and recreational) and get data in federal waters. Mr. Stipelcovich also thinks redfish should be opened to all commercial fishermen this year.

Mr. Bollie Lajantu, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr Lajantu is against any shutdown or slot limits. He believes the department should find out what is out there first before they close anything. Has seen more young fish in the last three year than six year before that.

Terry LeBlanc, Chauvin, LA, President of Terrebonne Fishermen's Association - Mr. LeBlanc does not believe the department is doing the right thing with the redfish, Black Drum and commercial fishermen. This is nothing but a political arena and is putting the fishermen out of business. The fishermen will lose their fishery if they are forced to work the sixteen to twenty-four inch fish.

Cliff Glockner, Jr., Lacombe, LA, Commercial Fishermen - Mr. Glockner is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee and thought they had until January to make a decision. He feels that the recommendations that the committees make will not matter and that the department will just pass on over them and do what they want. Mr. Glockner is against a closure. The fish are on their way out now and he believes a closure would hurt the commercial fishermen more than it would help them.

Tony Giambelluca, Covington, LA, Finfish Processor and Distributor of both domestic and import - Mr. Giambelluca is concerned that a complete closure of the fishery across the board of the various age groups would have detrimental affect for many fishermen across the state. He urged Secretary Van Sickle and the committee to consider the long term positive advantages for the Black Drum themselves, the fishery, the stock in not closing the fishery for a brief three month period and to consider the short term disadvantages of closing the industry and it effects it will have on the fishermen of the state. If the fishery does need interim action, Mr. Giambelluca strongly urged the committee not to consider a size slot of sixteen to twenty four inches because harvesting the fish would be an impossible task to do without killing thousands of pounds of fish. Mr. Giambelluca strongly urges for a minimum size to be caught. He suggested that the committee limit the fish from a certain point on downward and not an in between size.

Earnest Shultz, Lafitte, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Shultz has been fishing since he was fifteen and believes it has gotten to the point where a person cannot make it anymore. Laws have been passed on fisheries and the experts do not really know what is out there. No one really knows the data commented Mr. Shultz.

Jane Black, Golden Meadow, LA - Ms. Black asked that industry decide how to share up quota. It is very difficult to accept a window which protects two of the three user groups thus leaving the seine user group out and they will not be able to fish at all. The recreational and small boat people are covered and asked that the recreational people, people who target the smaller drums and people who target bull drums sit down and in the next thirty days come up with a plan to share up the quota.

Secretary Van Sickle commented that was one of the alternatives that Dr. Clark presented was to provide for public input over the next couple of weeks.

Peter Sinor, River Ridge, LA, Port Sampler for New Orleans Area - Mr. Sinor believes that any type of restrictions imposed upon the drum fishery would be a gross injustice to the fishermen.

Mark Boudreaux, Sea Vision - Mr. Boudreaux feels that it was not a unanimous decision among the biologists on what is being proposed. The shrinking trend, as far as the catch being smaller is due to a decrease demand, to some extent, for blacken anything nationally he explained. Mr. Boudreaux's whole job is to take products from Louisiana and distribute them nationally and to sell Louisiana. Mr. Boudreaux would like to see a program that allows Louisiana fisheries to be sold and not other countries. The proposed quota is useless to commercial fishermen and in the marketing standpoint you cannot expect people to sit around and say they will wait until Louisiana comes up with a program then come back and buy the product. It does not work this way and Louisiana's reputation as far as managing their resources, at best, is pretty sloppy stated Mr. Boudreaux. He believes that the data that Mr. Condrey presented lends itself to something more creative than just shutting the fishery down and January 1 something will be done. Responsibility is due not only to the people attending meeting, but to the people who are employed by the people at the meeting and the fishermen.

Wes Alford, Commercial Fisherman, Member of the Finfish Task Force, Ad Hoc Black Drum Committee - Mr. Alford needs the Commission to prove to him that he is a part of a viable management scheme that can work with his fellow commercial fishermen, the department and the biologists and prove to him that he is not a member of some political smoke screen. He feels insulted, just like the rest of his fellow commercial fishermen, that they were not consulted and brought into this management plan and that the fishery may be shut down.

Chairman Hines asked the people who represented the different groups, (Marine Finfish Panel, Black Drum Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, Recreational group, etc.,) if they thought that in the next couple of weeks they could get together and make a recommendations to the Commission on an interim plan, not withstanding the long range management plan. The department feels like something has got to be done in a short period of time and certainly respects and welcomes the input from the different groups before the final decision is made and before the October meeting make a interim recommendation to the Commission to consider and present it to them at that time or before that time. The groups agreed to this. Mr. Pol commented that since the recreational fishermen catch half of the drum he believes that the recommendation should be a joint recommendation between the recreational group and the panel. Secretary Van Sickle stated that if a consensus can not be reached the recommendations from the department are going to stand pat. If input can not be obtained from the commercial fishermen that would accomplish the goals and help the fishery then all there is what the department has. Secretary Van Sickle asked the fishermen for their assistance in the interim so that the fishery will not be destroyed any further. If good input is not obtained or can not get a consensus or some feel for what might make it better than the department is back to square one. Secretary Van Sickle does not want to put off this decision any further than October.

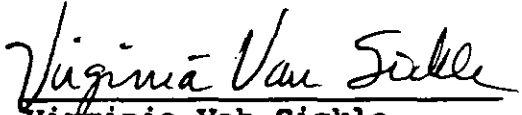
Mr. Jenkins moved that Dr. Clark, Wildlife and Fisheries and et. al. work with the appropriate interested groups to bring a recommendation to the Commission at its next regular meeting in October and at that time it is the intention of the Commission to make a decision on the interim Black Drum situation. (Will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.) Seconded by Mr. McCall.

Chairman Hines commented that the Commission realizes there is a problem and realizes there are many solutions to this problem. Not all of them are agreeable to everybody but would think as a Commission and as a department it behooves them to try to come up with the most workable plan that will affect each individual in the least adverse manner. Certainly going to do the very best to affect everybody as little as possible economically. Still are charged with the number one priority of protecting the resource and this should be the main objective. Chairman Hines thanked the groups for their input and all the time that they have put on the different panels. That time has not been in vain and Dr. Hines asked that they continue to meet and give input and information so that better decisions can be made.

Mr. Pol added that he was in favor of what Dr. Hines said and wants to helps everybody. The Commissioners do not get paid for

doing this and they are doing what they think is right for the State of Louisiana and not for any one particular individual group.

Chairman Hines called for vote on motion. Passed unanimously. Chairman Hines called for any further business on Black Drum, there not being any he called for motion to adjourn. Mr. Jenkins made motion to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Pol. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.


Virginia Vab Sickle
Secretary

September 8, 1989

To: Members of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups

From: Richard Condrey, Chairman *R2C*
Stock Assessment Subgroup

The purpose of this memo is to review with you my understanding of the major accomplishments and conclusions of our August 31, 1989 meeting and to solicit your corrections, especially concerning our major conservation criterion.

1) We have good growth and natural mortality rates from a number of reliable studies, which agree closely.

2) We have meaningful yield-per-recruit and spawning-stock-biomass-per-recruit relationships which will continue to be constructed so that their sensitivity to variance in our parameter estimates will be evident.

3) We can simulate how the population's age structure will be impacted by various levels of fishing mortality.

4) From our examination of the ages in Dan's and John's samples it appears that the adult population of black drum contain many age classes, from 5 to at least 42 years, with the highest concentration in the ages less than 28 years. Within these ages there may well be strong variations in year class strength, which may well be described in cycles of about four years.

The species appears to have evolved to a position where the persistence of a large age-structure in the spawning biomass reduces the impact of natural variation in the abundance of individual year classes on the extent of the natural spawn. As a corollary, the probability that an individual adult will be able to replenish itself in the spawning biomass is enhanced under natural conditions by the likelihood that it will persist through many years of reproductive life.

5) We feel that the presence of many strong older age classes in the adult population is an important factor in the long-term stability of this stock and should be maintained. We have therefore adopted the following primary conservation standard and are in the process of assuring that it is conservative enough.

DRAFT

DRAFT

The Primary Conservation Standard

In the presence of any fishery, the present age structure of the adult population which is vulnerable to the purse seine fishery will not be reduced below an age of 20 years, given that the current effective upper bound is presently 27 years of age. Further, the general shape of the descending arm of the current curve will remain, despite any harvest strategy which may allow a reduction in the effective age structure from 27 to 20 years of age.

6) This is not a stock which can endure heavy fishing pressure. For example, if the stock is fished across all ages, fishing mortality cannot exceed 0.1 on an instantaneous annual basis. If the stock is fished across all ages greater than 5, then fishing mortality cannot exceed 0.2 on an annual basis. If the stock is harvested at moderate rates in ages 1 to 4, adults must likely be protected from harvest. If a single year class incurs comparatively heavy fishery mortality, all other ages will likely have to be protected from harvest.

7) This is a species which requires cooperative management by the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, because its life history features foster migration through several jurisdictions.

Please let me know if you have any corrections by September 13, as our initial draft assessment is due September 15.

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

1.) Roll call.

2.) Introductory remarks.

3.) Marine Finfish Panel. *Chuck Wilson - Cha*

4.) Description of the commercial fishery. *Harlon Price*

5.) Description of the recreational fishery. *Mark Hilgen*

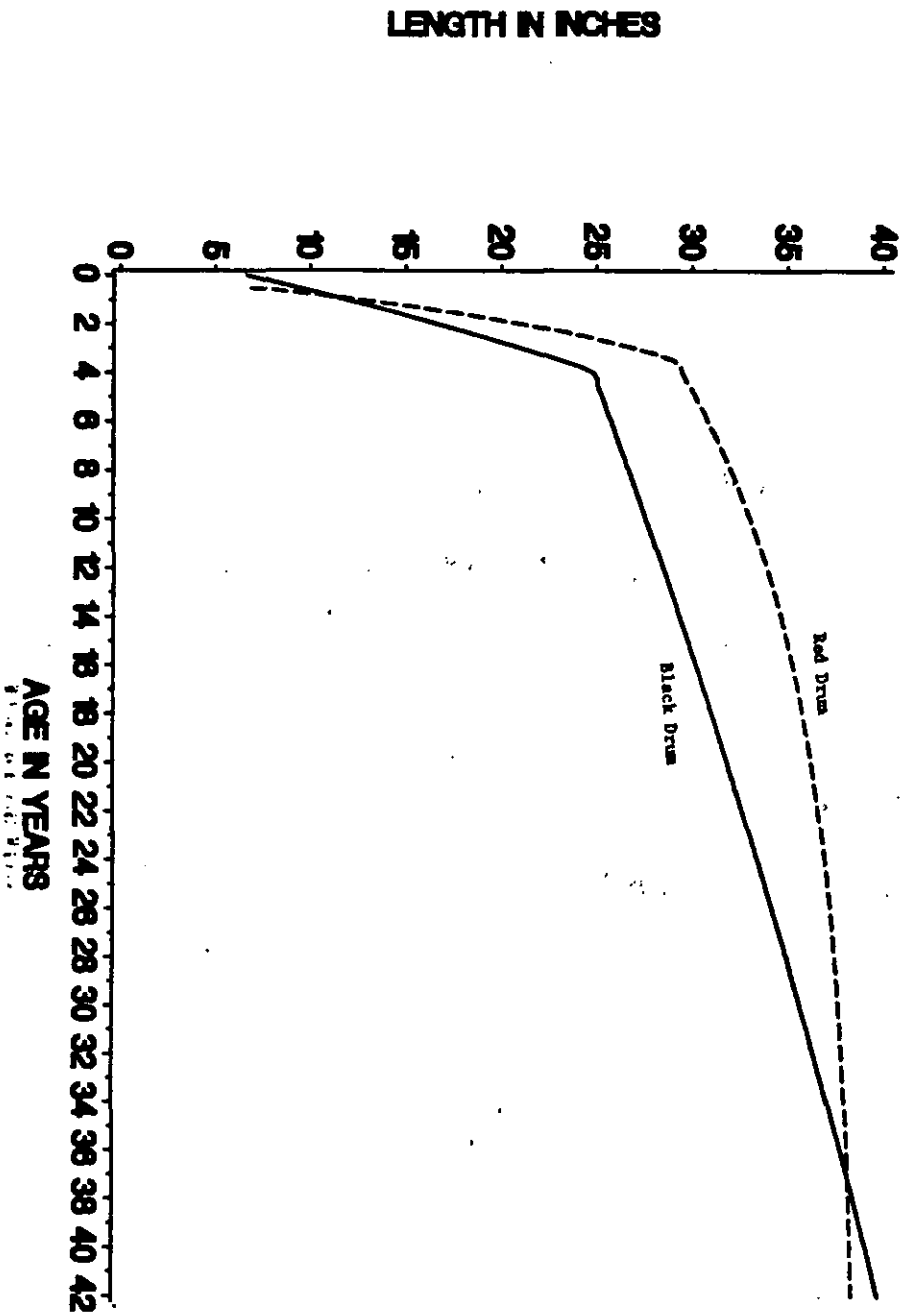
6.) Stock assessment. *Dr Richard Condray -*

7.) Management options.

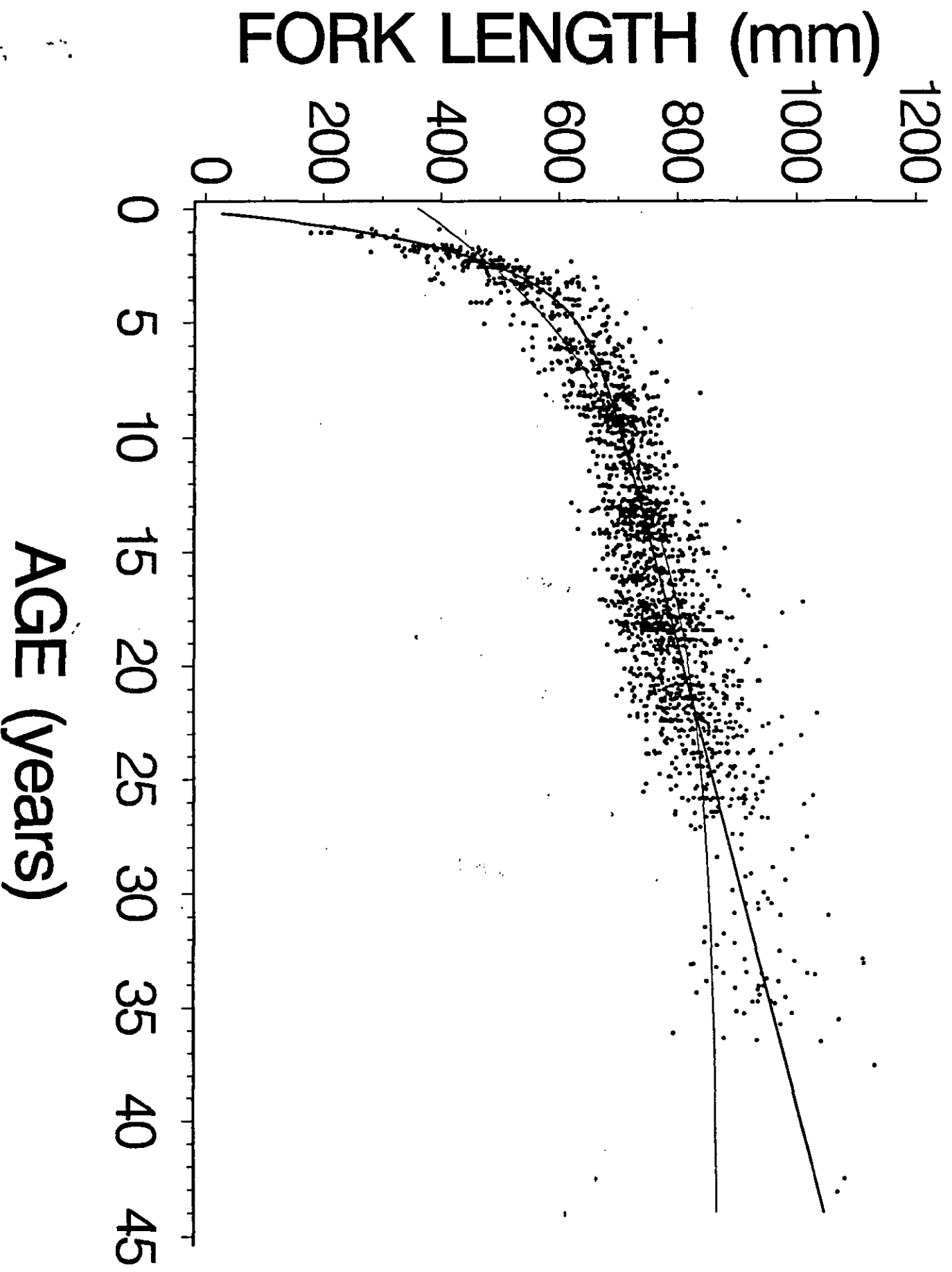
8.) Public testimony.

Beckman -
Harlon Price -

COMPARING GROWTH RATE OF REDDRUM AND BLACKDRUM



von Bertalanffy model with sloped asymptote



BLACK DRUM

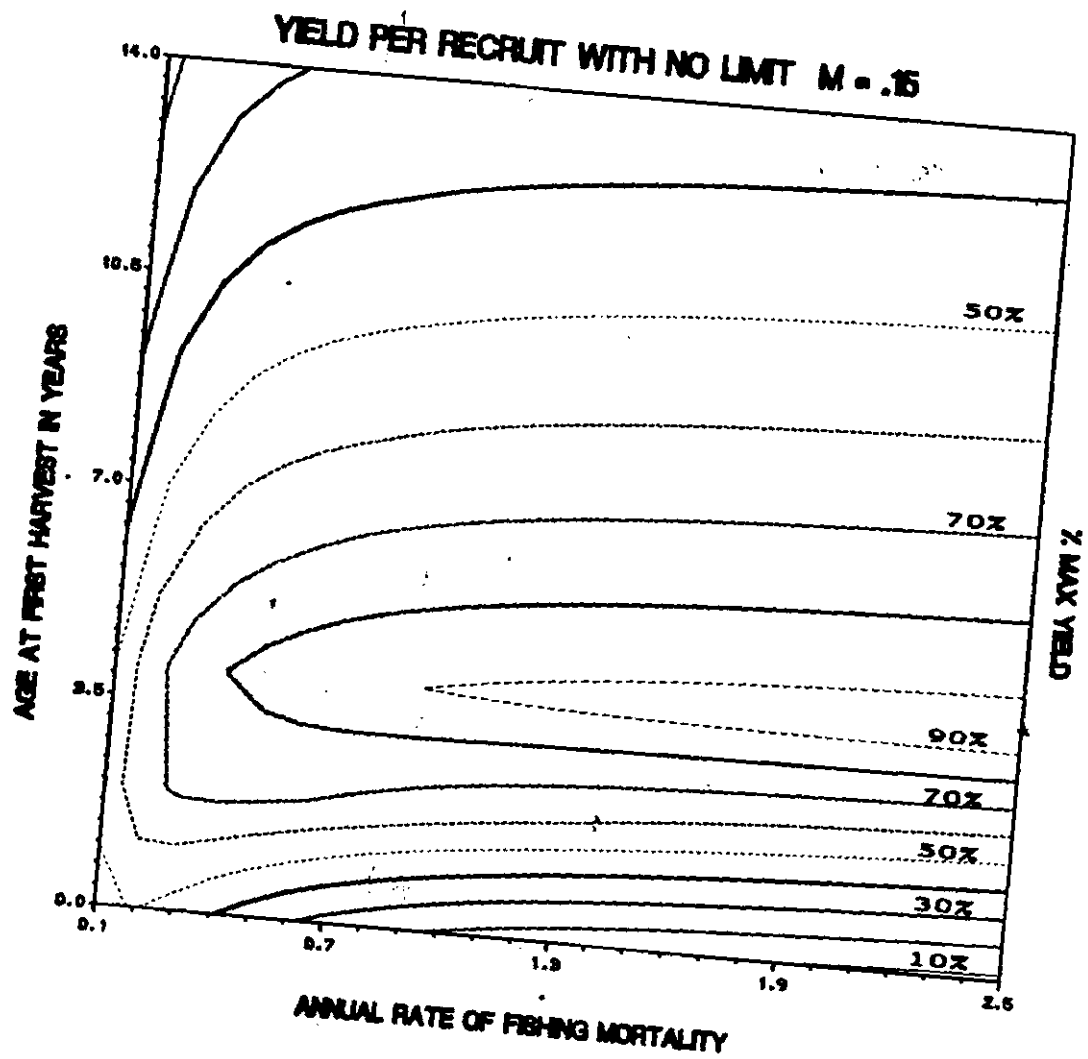
Age (years)	Length (inches)	Weight (pounds)
1	10.3	0.6
2	17.1	2.8
3	21.0	5.2
4	23.3	7.2
5	24.7	8.6
6	25.7	9.6
7	26.4	10.5
8	27.0	11.2
9	27.4	11.8
10	27.9	12.4
15	29.9	15.3
20	31.8	18.6
25	33.8	22.3
30	35.8	26.5
35	37.7	31.2
40	39.7	36.4

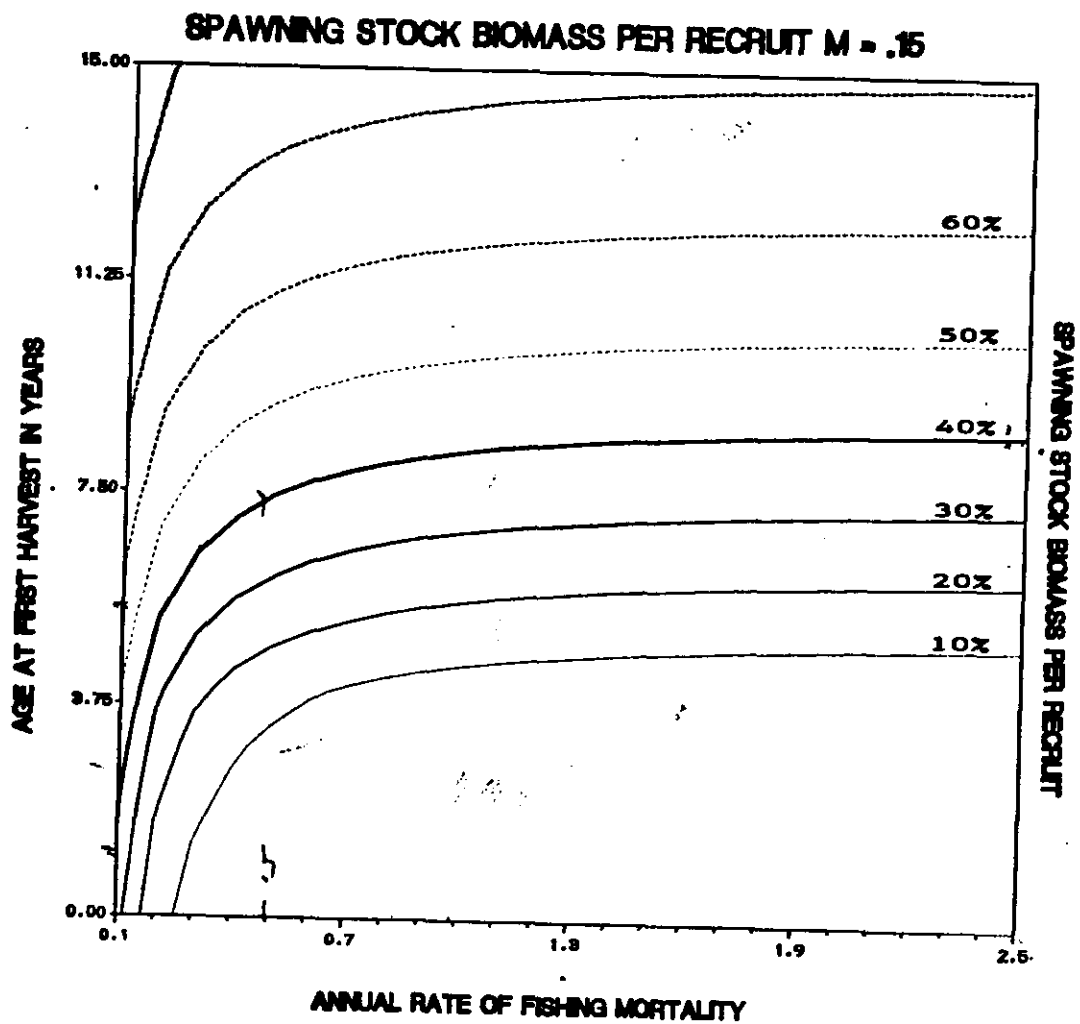
NATURAL MORTALITY

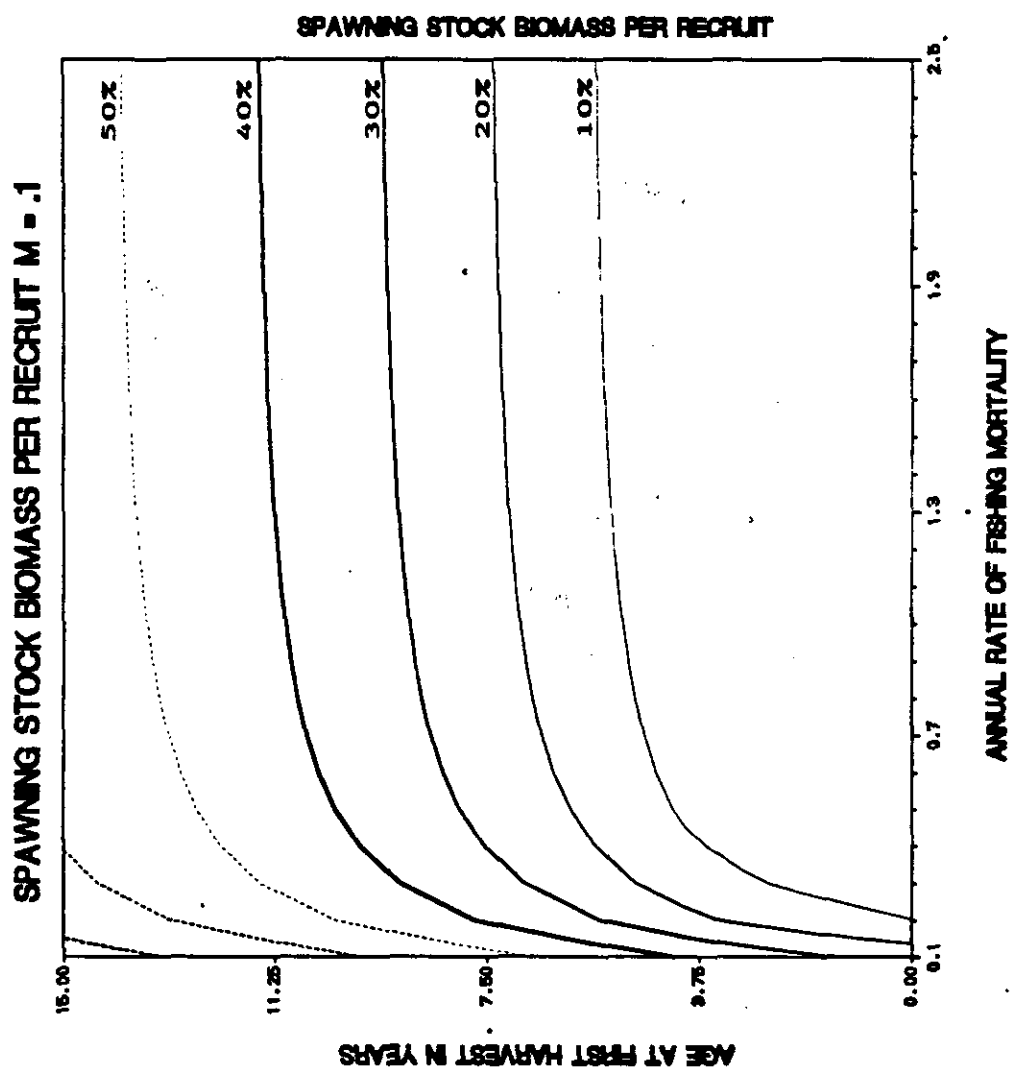
M annual natural mortality rate	% of population dying during the year
0.1	10%
0.2	18%
0.5	39%
1.0	63%
1.5	78%
2.0	86%

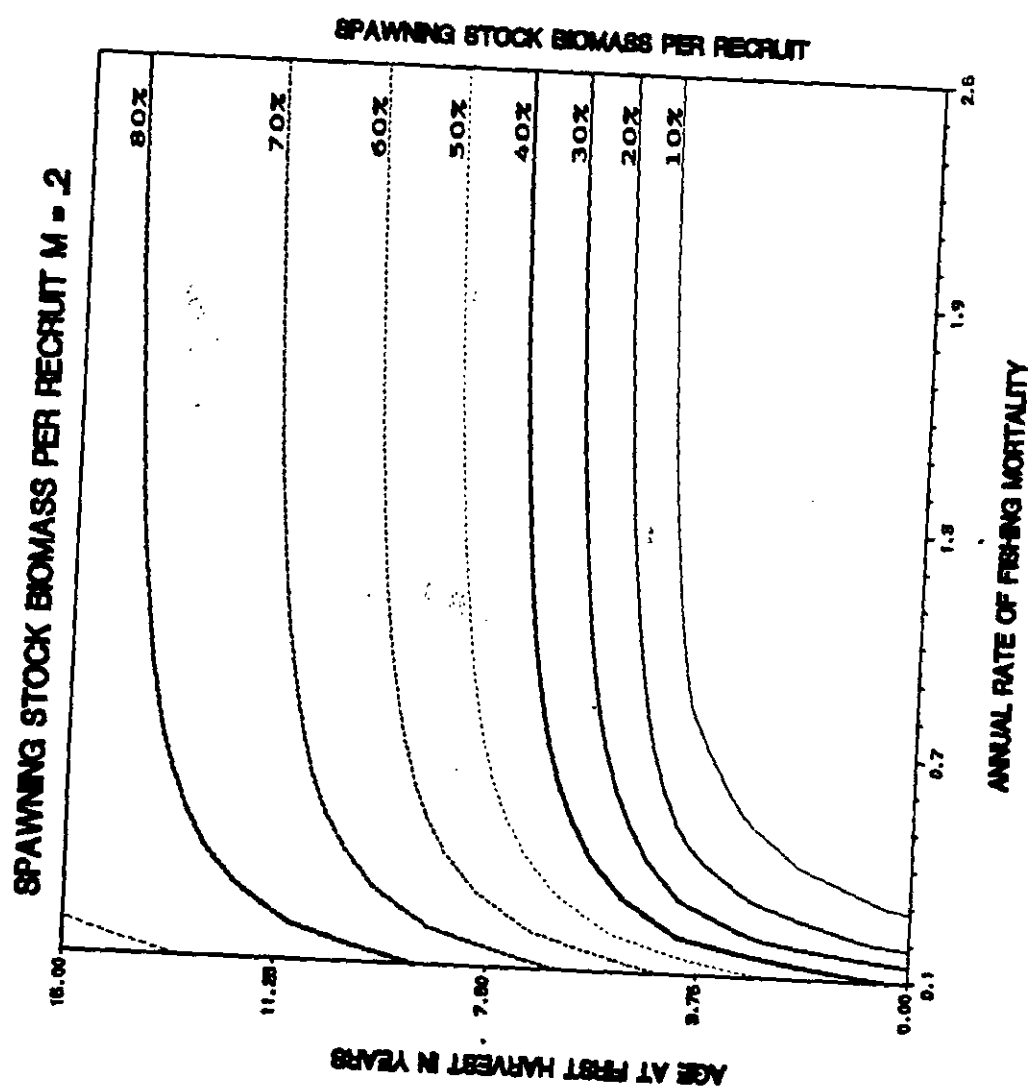
Based on these analyses and considerations, we will use a range of instantaneous natural mortality rates of 0.10 to 0.20 in this report, about a mean value of 0.15, so as to allow our other discussions to be sensitive to our uncertainty in exact rate of natural mortality.

<u>Age of fish</u> (months)	<u>Number of fish</u>		<u>Weight of an individual fish</u> (pounds)		<u>Weight of the population of fish in the pond</u> (pounds)
1	900	X	0.2	=	180
2	820	X	1.0	=	820
3	740	X	2.7	=	1,998
4	670	X	3.5	=	2,345
5	610	X	4.0	=	2,440
6	550	X	4.2	=	2,310
7	500	X	4.4	=	2,200
8	450	X	4.6	=	2,070









Reproduction

Single annual spawning cycle

begins in late late October-early November

peaks in January-February

ends in late April

mature black drum appear to spawn inshore and offshore

black drum are group synchronous, batch spawners

Sexually mature at 5 years of age

Current age structure

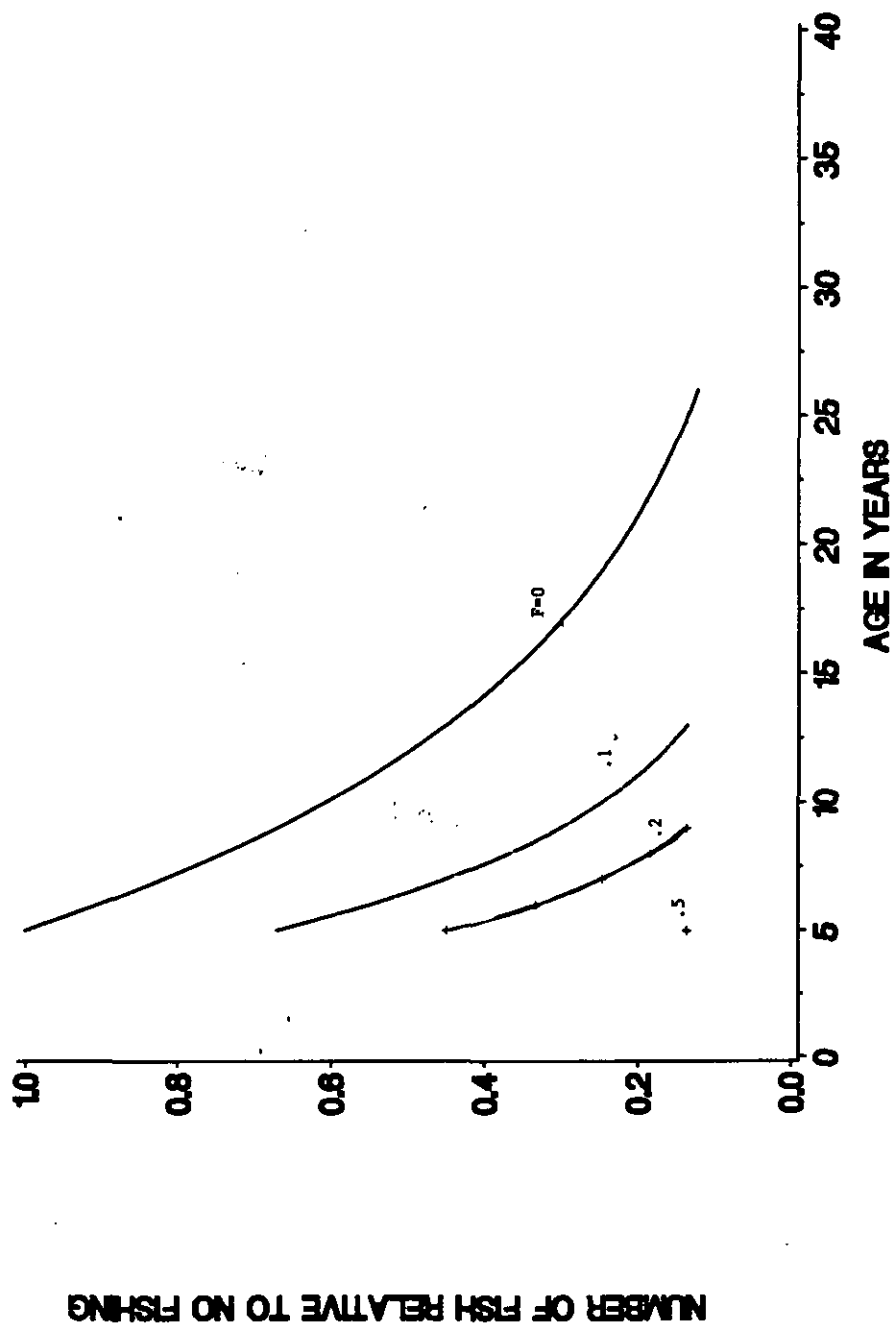
Long-lived

age information from gill net, trawl, haul seine, purse seines and hook and line catches, 1986-1988 indicates a predominance of fish from the 1962-1981 year classes

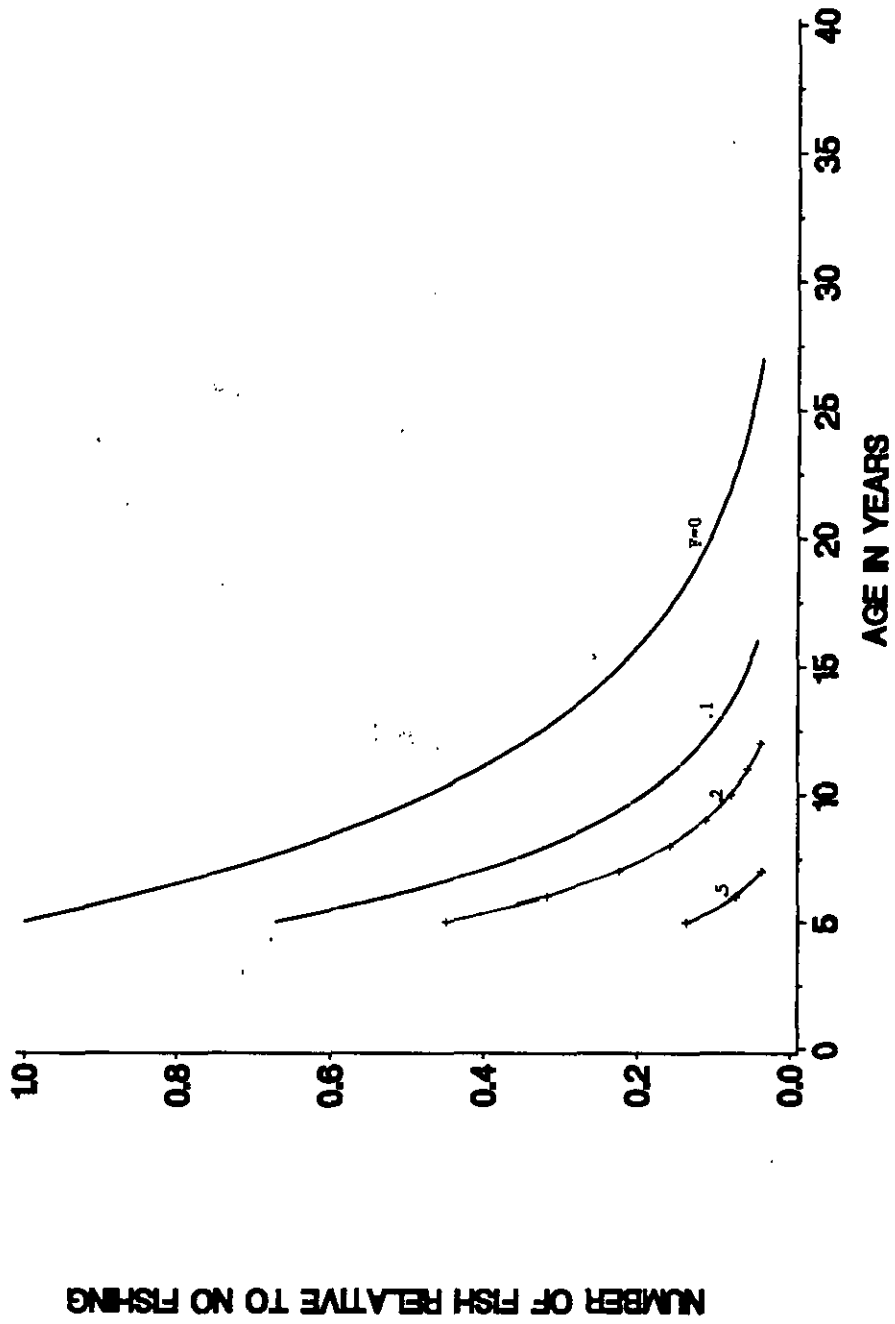
a 4 to 5 year cycle of strong versus weak year classes is suggested

occurrence of many year classes in the spawning pool contributes to stability by dampening the impact of widely fluctuating year class strength

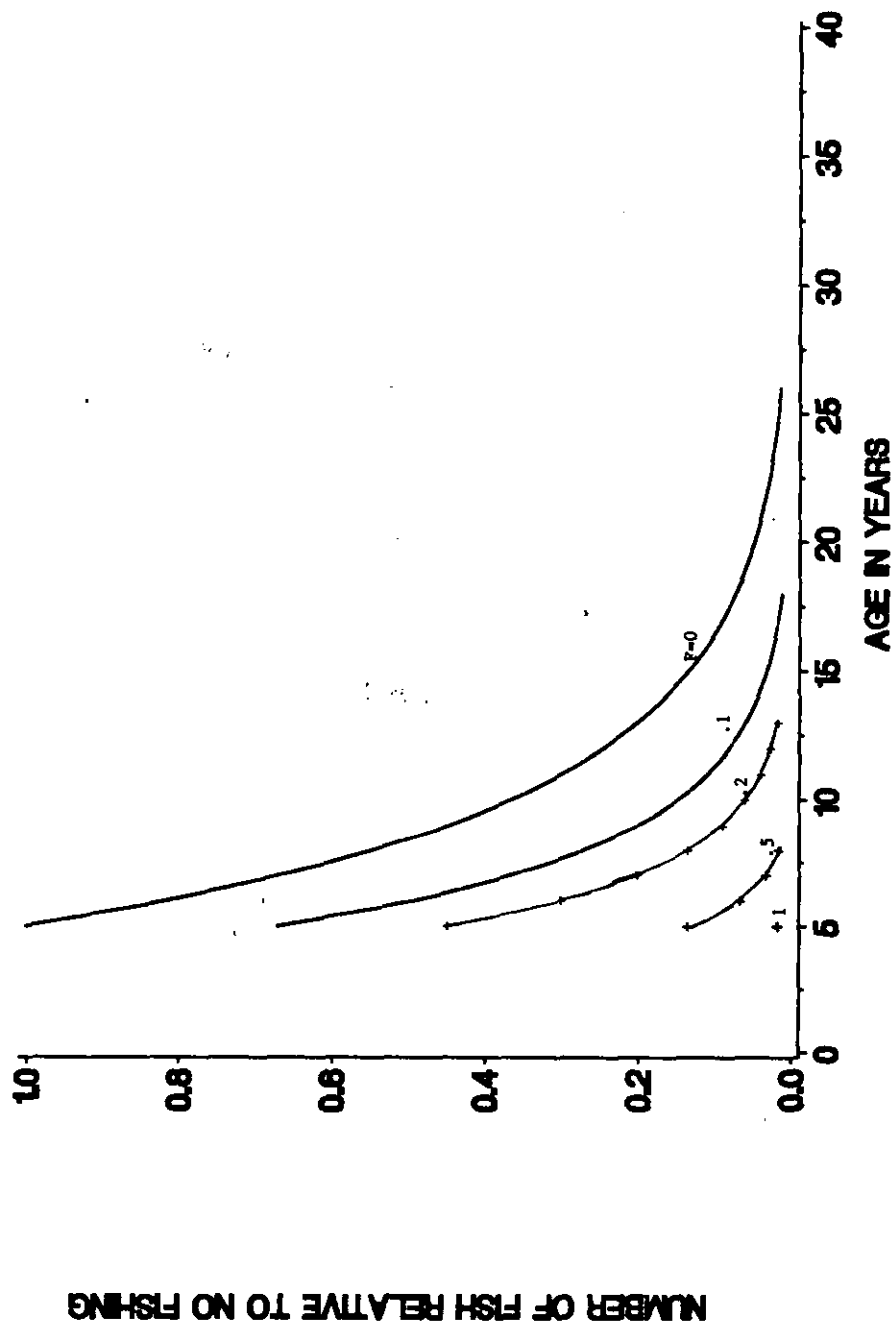
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .1$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES GREATER THAN 1



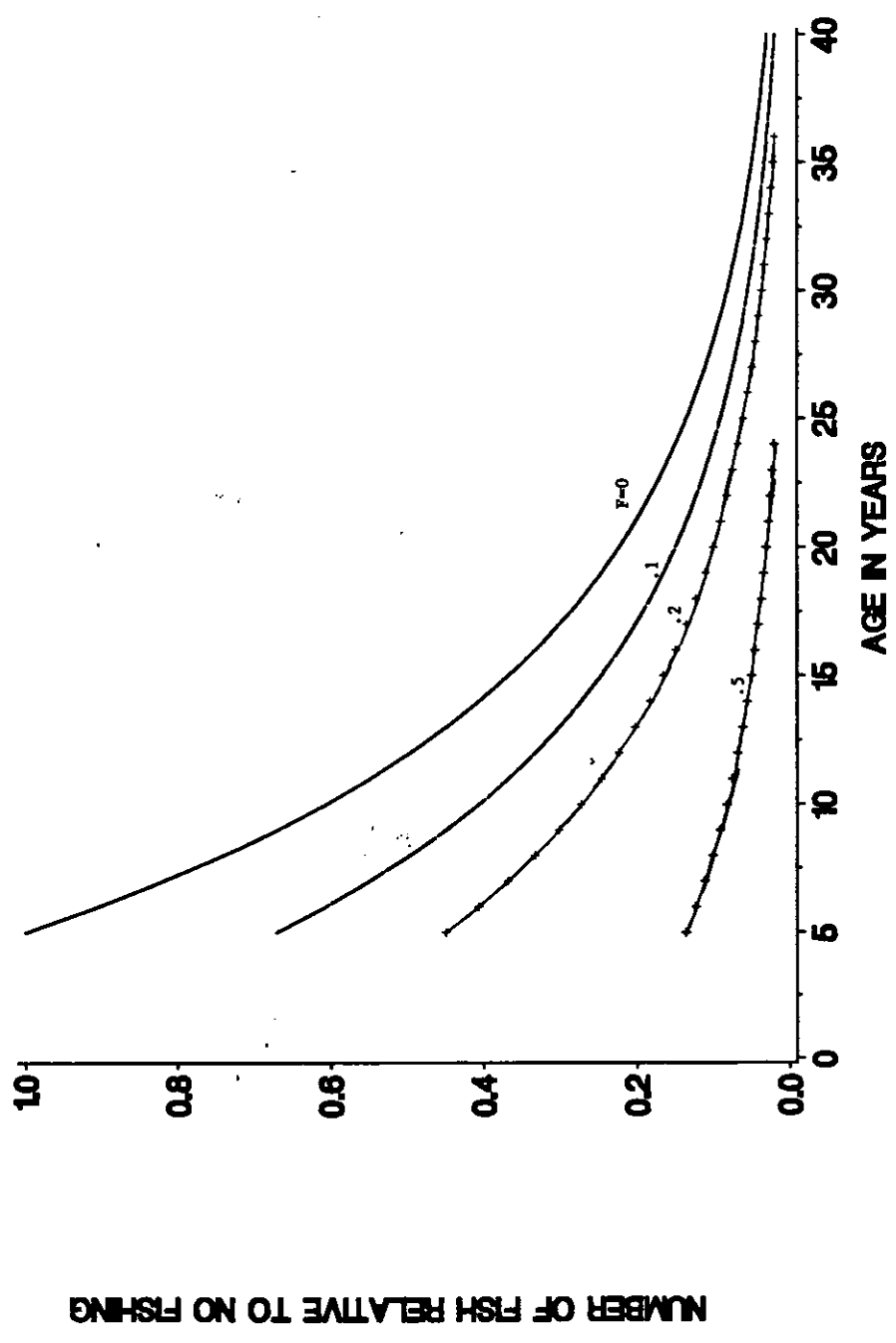
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .15$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES GREATER THAN 1



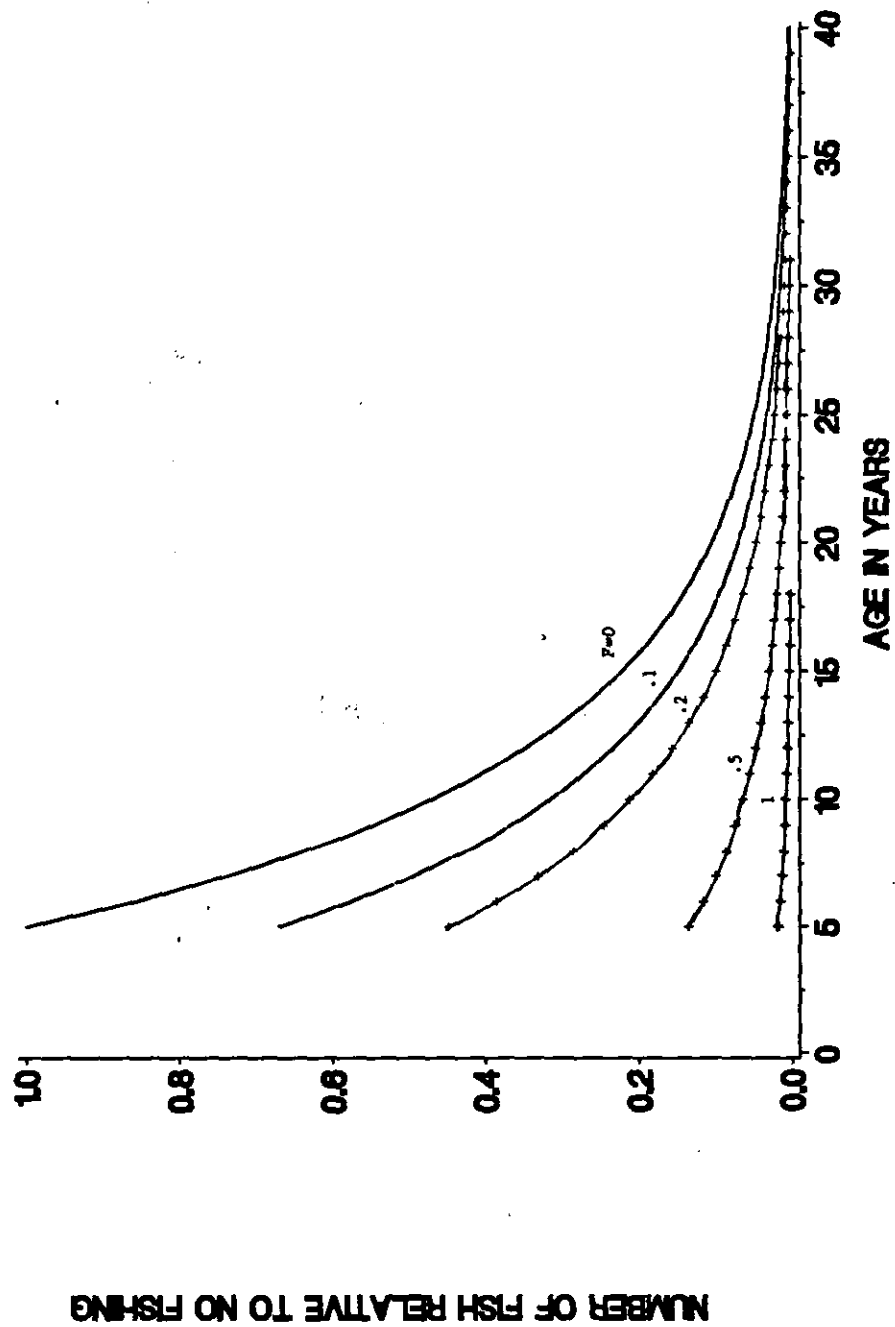
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .2$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES GREATER THAN 1



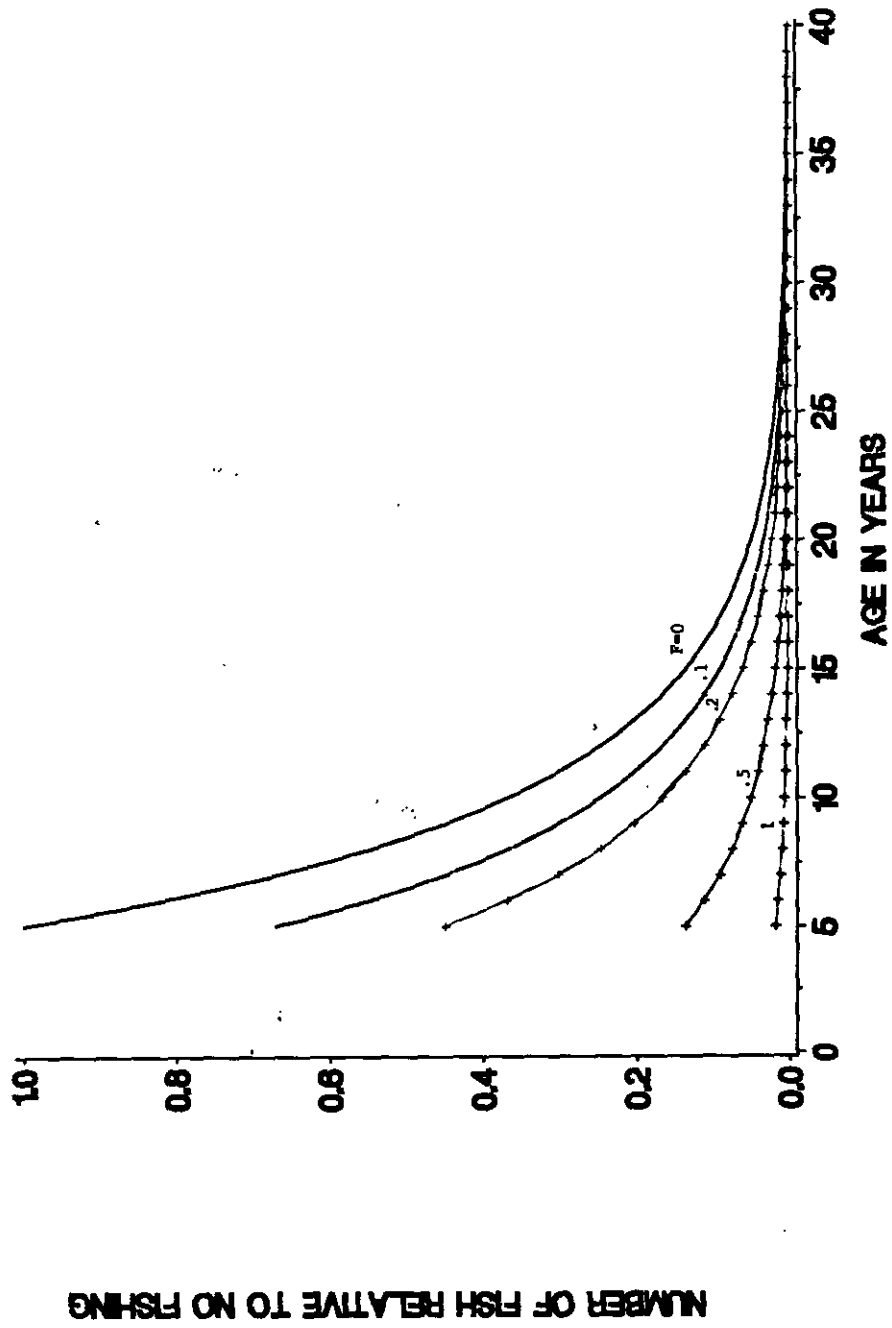
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .1$, FISHING ACROSS AGES ONE THROUGH FOUR



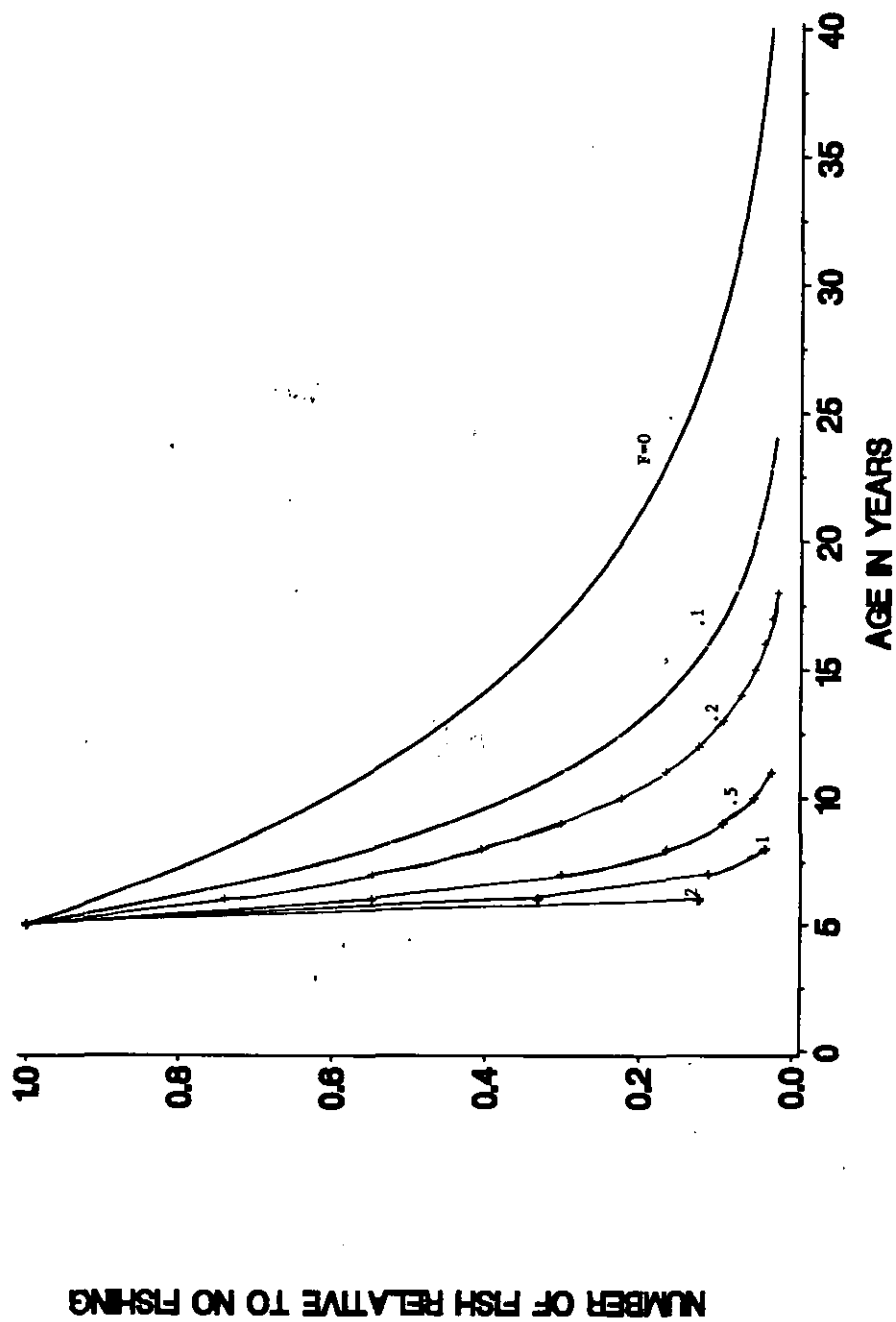
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .15$, FISHING ACROSS AGES ONE THROUGH FOUR



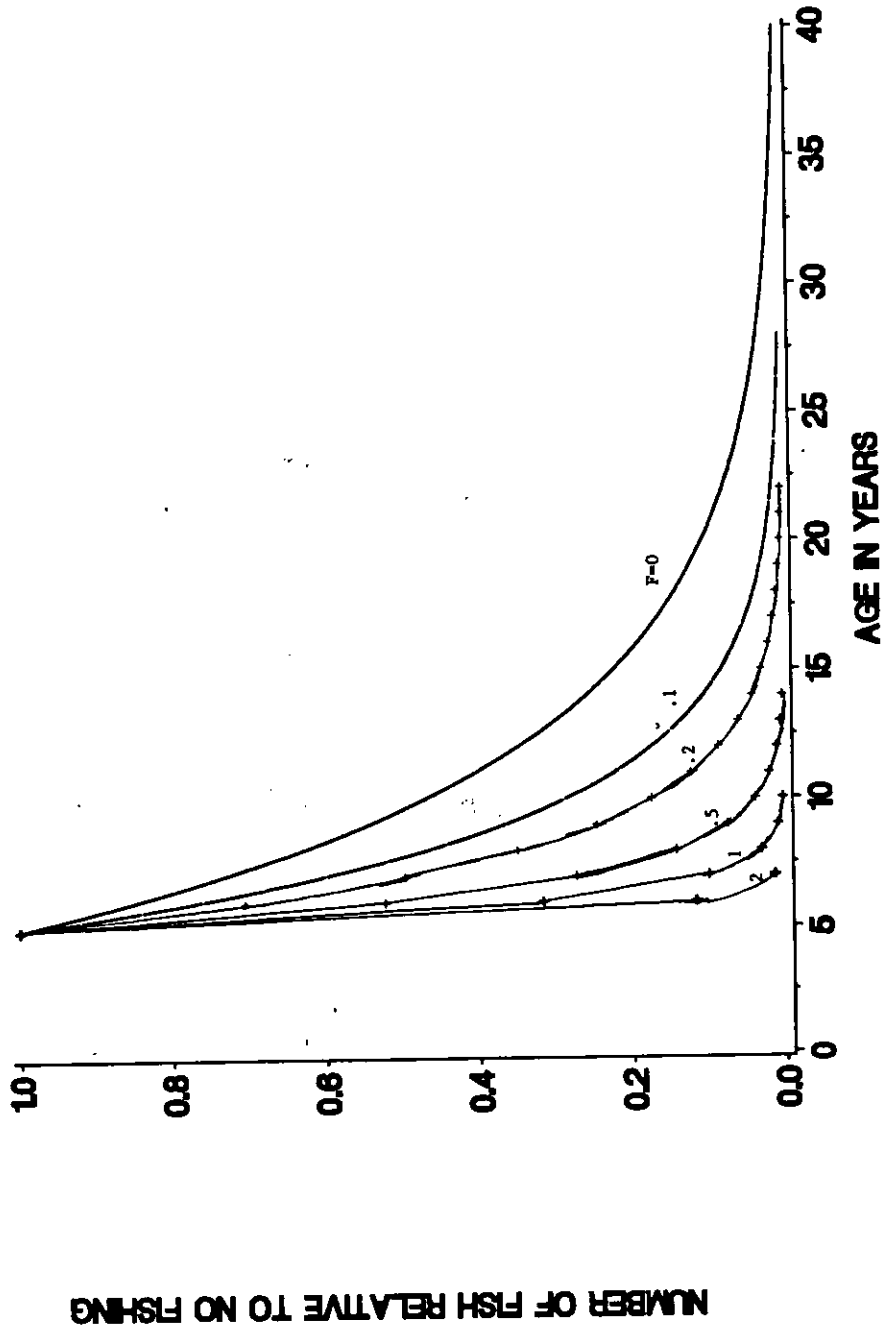
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .2$, FISHING ACROSS AGES ONE THROUGH FOUR



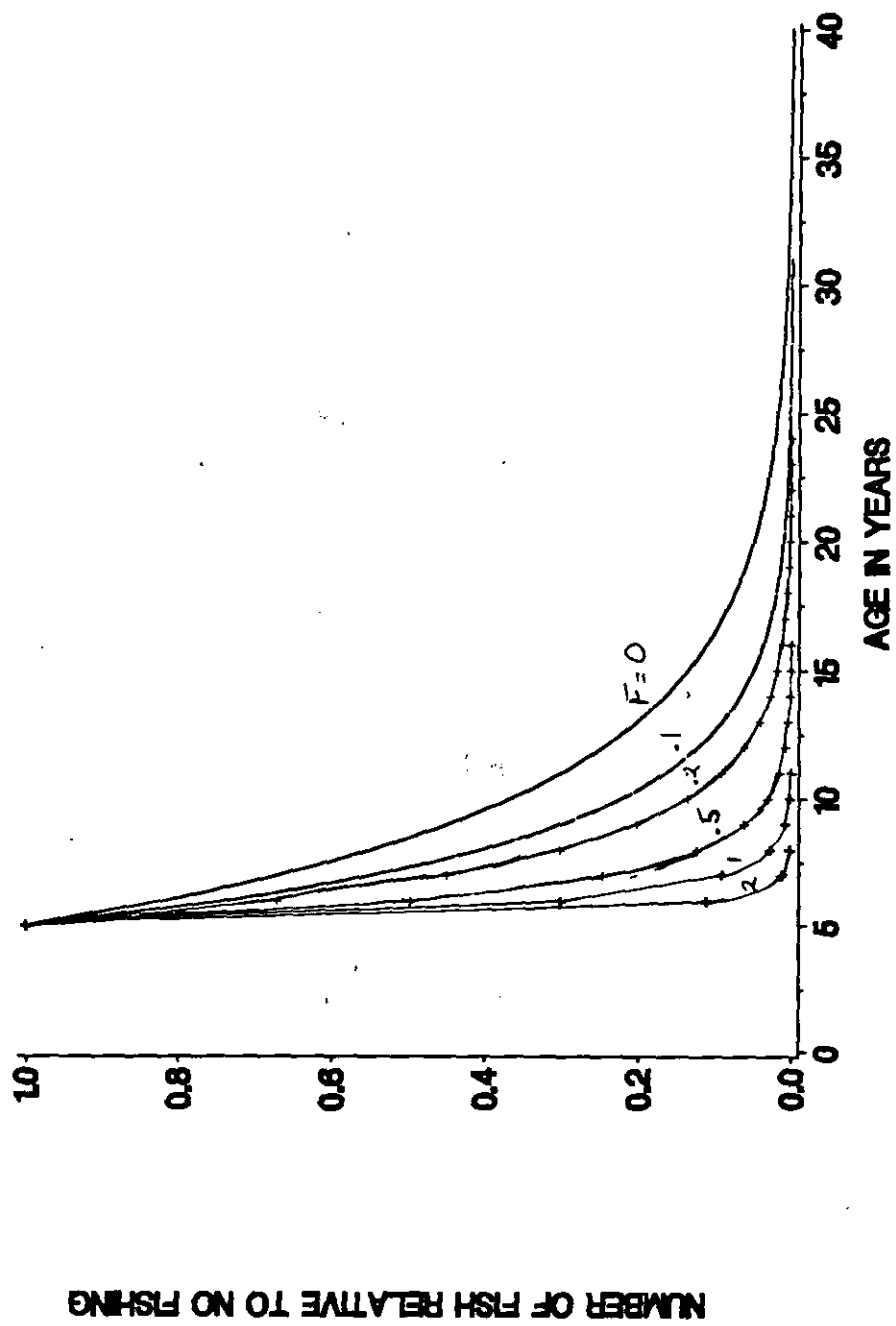
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .1$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES FIVE AND GREATER



AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .15$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES FIVE AND GREATER

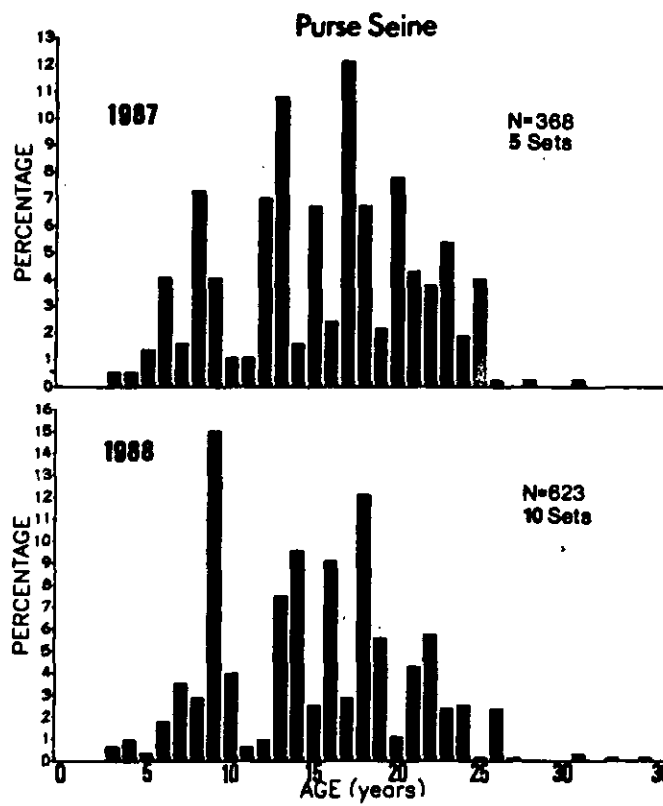


AGE STRUCTURE, $M = 2$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES FIVE AND GREATER



The Primary Conservation Standard

In the presence of any fishery, the present age structure of the adult population which is vulnerable to the purse seine fishery will not be reduced below an age of 20 years, given that the current effective upper bound is presently 27 years of age. Further, the general shape of the descending arm of the current curve will remain, despite any harvest strategy which may allow a reduction in the effective age structure from 27 to 20 years of age.



ARTICLE II

REGULAR MEETINGS

1. The regular meetings of the Commission shall be as set at any regular or special meeting by resolution adopted by a majority of the members present in person.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

1. Special meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chairman, at his discretion, and shall be called by the chairman upon written request of any four members. The notice of each special meeting shall state the purpose for which it is called, and only those matters shall be considered that have been included in the call, unless every member of the Commission is present at the called meeting and a quorum of the Board agrees to take up other matters.

2. The chairman, shall cause written notices of the time and place of special meetings to be mailed, or hand delivered, to each member, at the addresses as they appear in the records of the Commission, at least three days before the day on which the meeting is to be held, or shall communicate the notice of such meetings to the members by telegram or telephone not later than 24 hours before the meeting is to be held.

ATTENDANCE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

1. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall attend all meetings of the Commission unless excused, or directed by the Commission not to attend, or unless other appropriate staff alternates, acceptable to the Commission by prior arrangement, are designated by the Secretary to attend.

ALLIGATOR REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD IN GRAND CHENIER, LOUISIANA ON FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1989.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries recommends that an alligator season be hereby established in accordance with the following regulations: No exceptions of these procedures will be permitted, and anyone taking alligators contrary to these regulations will be charged in accordance with Title 56 of the Louisiana Laws pertaining to Wildlife and Fisheries, appropriate federal laws and regulations, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission regulations, and/or Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals regulations.

1. Open Area - Alligator habitat in the state of Louisiana. Harvest quotas will be rigidly controlled according to alligator population estimates within all of the State's wetland habitat types.
2. Harvest season - The open season shall run for a 30 day period beginning on September 9, 1989 and continue through October 8, 1989. It is legal to take, possess, or sell alligators or their skins under 4 feet in length as provided for by rules and regulations of the Commission. A special Department permit shall be issued to alligator hide dealers, farmers, ranchers and hunters in order to ship alligator skins below 4 feet in length.
3. Harvest methods - Alligators may be taken only during daylight hours, between official sunrise and official sunset. If a licensed hunter is cited for hunting alligators out of season, at night or on property other than that for which tags were assigned, all tags and skins for the current season will be confiscated in addition to revocation of the alligator hunting license.

Special instructions will be issued to the holders of alligator hunter licenses shortly before the opening of the season describing detailed methods regarding the skinning of alligators. Skins processed contrary to the specific requirements of the Department will be considered illegal and will be confiscated by Department personnel. Pole hunting is prohibited to protect the nesting female population. Hooks and lines may be set no more than one day prior to the season opening. No hook and line shall remain set after the closing day of the alligator season. All alligator hooks and lines must be checked daily and all hooks and lines must be removed when a hunter's tag quota is reached. Alligators cannot be cut loose from hooks and lines for purposes of selecting larger alligators.

4. Licenses - An alligator hunter must have in possession a valid commercial alligator hunter license to take or sell alligators or their skins or other alligator parts. The fee for the resident license is \$25.00 per year and for the non-resident \$150.00. These licenses are non-transferable. In order to obtain a resident license, the hunter must have established bona fide residence in the state.

A hunter must complete application forms provided by the Department and furnish proof that he owns the land or has an agreement with the landowner or another authorized hunter to hunt alligators on the specified property. Information as to the location and acreage of the property must be provided (all land descriptions must include parish, township, range, and section delineation figures).

Applications must be submitted beginning August 1, 1989. Property ownership and description requirements do not apply to public lake hunters. The alligator hunter license will be issued only after the hunter has satisfactorily complied with the above requirements. Commercial alligator hunter licenses will not be issued after September 18, 1989. Alligator sport hunter licenses may be issued throughout the season. Non-resident hunters and resident sport hunters must coordinate their hunt through landowners and licensed resident hunters. A non-resident hunter may take no more than 3 alligators per season.

A fur buyer license or fur dealer license is required for purchasing and handling raw alligator skins in Louisiana. An alligator parts dealer license is required of any person who deals in alligator parts other than hides and who: (a) Buys from an alligator hunter or farmer for the purpose of resale; or (b) Manufactures within the state, alligator parts into a finished product; or (c) Purchases, cans, processes, or distributes alligator meat for wholesale or retail.

A retailer selling canned alligator parts or a retailer purchasing alligator parts from an alligator parts dealer or restaurant selling prepared alligator meat for human consumption shall not be classified as an alligator parts dealer. The fee for the parts dealer license is \$50.00 per year.

Persons or firms entering alligators, alligator eggs, or alligator skins and/or parts in interstate/foreign commerce in the course of a commercial activity must be licensed in accordance with state and federal regulations. Persons shipping alligators, alligator eggs, or alligator skins and/or parts to another state or country must do so in accordance with the regulations of that state or country.

Each retailer selling canned alligator parts or purchasing alligator parts and each restaurant selling prepared alligator meat for human consumption shall secure a license from the Department before commencing business. The license shall be secured annually and shall be furnished upon the payment of five dollars.

5. Disposition, Validation, Tagging and Labeling - All alligators killed within the State including those killed on farms and ranches shall have an official \$4.00 harvest tag attached. All shipments of eggs and alligators transported or otherwise disposed of out-of-state shall have an official alligator/egg shipping label attached prior to transport or shipment out-of-state. A \$4.00 fee will be charged for each egg or alligator contained within the shipment.

In addition to a valid commercial alligator hunting license, the hunter must also obtain from the Department, and have in his possession while hunting, official harvest tags which must be firmly attached to each alligator immediately upon taking. Numbered tags will only be issued in the name of license holders. Alligator tags will not be issued after September 18, 1989.

Harvest tags will be issued throughout the year to alligator farmers and ranchers and will only be issued to holders of valid Nongame Quadruped Breeders Licenses. All alligator tags issued to farmers and ranchers will only be issued from Rockefeller Refuge. Tags must be attached and locked in the last six (6) inches of the tail. The tags must remain attached to the skin until final processing by the fabricator.

It shall be illegal to possess dead alligators or alligator skins in Louisiana without valid official tags or labels attached. Failure to properly tag or label an alligator or skin will result in confiscation of both the alligator or skin and tag. Alligator farmers and ranchers may hold dead farm raised alligators which may have died from disease in freezers until officially checked by a Department biologist. Rockefeller Refuge must be notified within 30 days of any such deaths.

Official alligator tags will be issued to alligator hunters who have authorized applications. Each official tag will bear a serial number, and the tag issued to each hunter will be recorded. The number of tags will be issued on the basis of the quantity and quality of the habitat, and the rate per acre will be fixed based on extensive population estimates. Tags will be issued for alligator habitat only, based on final decision of Department biologists.

Hunters, farmers and ranchers will be held accountable for all alligator tags issued to them. Unused tags must be returned by the hunter to the Department no later than 15 days following the close of the season. Violation of this requirement shall result in the revocation of the alligator hunting license and no alligator tags will be issued for one year.

Department personnel must be notified, within 15 days following the season, of any alligator hides not sold to a commercial buyer or dealer on official Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries forms provided. Lost or stolen tags will not be replaced but must be reported within 15 days of close of season. Tags can be used only on the lands applied for and approved on the application.

Tags furnished by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (Color: Blue) must be attached to all unprocessed alligator meat/parts upon transfer by a hunter or farmer.

Each shipment or transport of eggs or alligators out of the jurisdictional boundaries of Louisiana shall have affixed an official numbered alligator/egg shipping label which will be available upon request from the Department. This label will contain the numbers of eggs and/or alligators being shipped/transported, the name and license number of the shipper and the destination address. Each label will be validated by a Department employee. Shipment of eggs or alligators being used for Department sanctioned research shall be exempt from the label fee but shall be accompanied by a permit issued by the Department.

6. Alligator Farmers and Breeders - Licensed alligator farmers and ranchers must have Department authorization to kill and skin their alligators but must follow the same rules and regulations which apply to wild alligators (except farm/ranch alligators can be harvested during closed season with Department approval). Alligator farmers and ranchers must have written Department authorization to sell or transfer live alligators or alligator eggs. All such requests shall be forwarded to Rockefeller Refuge. All alligator farmers and ranchers shall adhere to all requirements contained in their state Alligator Farming/Ranching Permit.
7. Sale of Alligator Skins - All alligator skins taken during the alligator season must be validated by personnel of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries prior to the hides leaving the state. Special skinning instructions will be verified, and skins not prepared according to instructions issued in advance of season will be considered illegal. Buyers/dealers must abide by special skinning instructions or be subject to forfeiture of improperly skinned hides.

8. **Buyer/Dealer Hide Records** - All buyers and dealers making purchases of alligator hides shall maintain a complete set of records of all purchases and sales. Such records will include names and addresses of buyers and/or sellers, alligator hide tag number and length, and date purchased. Dealers will submit reports as required by the Department for all hides purchased/sold. Every buyer or dealer having raw alligator hides in his possession shall file with the Department within sixty days after the close of the alligator season, or prior to shipping out-of-state, a complete report as specified on forms provided by the Department.
9. **Shipment** - All interstate shipments of raw alligator skins must be tagged with official out-of-state shipping tags provided by the Department. All shipments of skins within the State must be tagged with official Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in-state shipping tags. A severance tax of 25 cents per hide must be paid on all out-of-state shipments at the time skins are transported or shipped.
10. **Sale of Meat and Parts** - Meat and other parts from lawfully taken alligators can only be sold according to Louisiana and federal laws, including Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals regulations, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations, and federal regulations.

Alligator meat sold for human food must be processed in a licensed facility approved by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. If a person or firm is cited for buying or selling alligator meat that was not processed through a licensed alligator processing plant, all alligator meat in possession will be confiscated.

Alligator hunters, farmers, and parts dealers shall maintain records of all transactions, purchases and sales on forms provided by the Department. These forms shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days following the close of the season and thereafter at 60-day intervals until all parts are sold. All alligator meat and parts, excluding hides, shall be tagged with an official alligator parts tag (Color: Blue) to be furnished by the Department. The alligator parts tag must remain attached until processing by properly licensed individuals or firms.

Hunters, farmers, and alligator parts dealers shall furnish a bill of sale to all retailers and restaurants purchasing alligator parts. This bill of sale shall be maintained for a period of six months.

11. Alligator Nuisance Control Program - This program is incorporated into the Alligator Harvest Program to remove problem alligators occurring within the confines of communities which cannot be harvested under the tag allotment program. This program will allow the taking of problem alligators within the confines of municipal, ward, parish, or state responsibility where there are alligator-people conflicts. The program depends upon close cooperation of state, parish and local authorities.

The primary objective of the Alligator Nuisance Control Program is to reduce the number of human - alligator contacts, yet utilize a valuable natural resource. Alligators taken under this program must be taken in accordance with state regulations and local regulations/ordinances. Skinning instructions issued by the Department will be valid for one year, until the next year's skinning instructions are issued.

The selection of nuisance alligator hunters shall be coordinated through local governing bodies such as Police Juries or Parish and City Administrators. The final selection of nuisance alligator hunters rests with the Department with appropriate background checks of all applicants. Alligator harvest tags may be issued by the Department to an approved resident commercial licensed hunter who has been officially designated by the local governing body with concurrence of the Department. The number of tags issued will be based on the number of legitimate complaints received the quantity and quality of alligator habitat involved and with approval of Department personnel. Numbered tags will only be issued in the name of the nuisance license holder for a sum of \$4.00 per tag.


Disposition of skins, meat and parts taken in this program will comply with existing federal and state statutes, Commission rules and regulations, and regulations adopted by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

12. Hunting On Public Lakes - The Department may select public lakes for an experimental alligator hunting program. The harvest will be controlled by a tag allotment for each lake as determined by population surveys by Department personnel. An alligator hunter can receive tags for and hunt on only one public lake each season. The tag quota for a public lake is 5 per hunter. Alligator tags issued on public lakes are non-transferable.

Applicants for public lake hunting must be 16 years of age or older. Applications for public lake hunting must be received at least 10 days prior to the season opening date. In the event that the number of applicants for any particular public lake exceeds the number of allowable hunters, a public drawing will be held to select hunters. Only the applicants whose names are drawn will be eligible to hunt public lakes.

13. Harvest Rates - Harvest rates are presently being calculated and will be determined by biologists of the Fur and Refuge Division. Aerial nest counts and night count surveys will be completed on July 15, 1989. This data will be analyzed, harvest rates calculated, and alligator tag allotments will be presented to Department/Commission administrators for their consideration.
14. The Department Secretary shall be authorized to close, extend or reopen the alligator season as biologically justifiable; harvest rates will be approved when available by the Department Secretary.

This is to certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the excerpt of the meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission held in Grand Chenier, Louisiana on July 7, 1989.



Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries



Donald Hines, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

La. Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting
August 3 & 4, 1989
Baton Rouge, LA

1989 Tag Allotment/Marsh Type			
	Brackish	Intermediate	Fresh
Cameron			
Calcasieu	1:150	1:75	1:100
Jeff Davis			1:100
*Vermilion West	1:100	1:75	1:200
*Vermilion East	1:275	1:200	
Iberia	1:275	1:200	1:150
St. Mary	1:275	1:100	1:150
Terrebonne	1:200	1:75	1:100
Lafourche	1:400	1:75	1:100
St. Charles	1:425	1:75	1:75
St. John the Baptist		1:75	1:75
Jefferson	1:250	1:100	1:200
Orleans	1:500	1:200	1:225
Plaquemines	1:325	1:325	1:250
St. Bernard	1:700	1:200	
St. Tammany	1:100	1:150	1:175
Tangipahoa			1:175
<hr/>			
Swamp	1:250		
Dewatered Marsh	1:700		
Deteriorating Brackish Marsh**	1:700		

* The dividing line for Vermilion Parish brackish and intermediate marsh is the Vermilion River Cutoff (4-mile cut).

**Marsh areas which are characterized by a generally declining alligator population caused by degradation of alligator habitat.

1989 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY ZONE AND PARISH
LAKE REGION

ZONE	PARISH	HABITAT	ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	REMARKS
Minden	Caddo	Cross Lake	500	20	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	DeSoto	*Clear Lake	1,500	10	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
		**Smithport Lake	1,500	10	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
		***Toledo Bend	3,000	20	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
			6,500	60	
Monroe					No Public Lakes No Experimental Harvest
Tloga	Grant	Iatt Lake	4,000	20	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	Rapides	Indian Creek	500	10	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
		Kincaid Lake	1,000	15	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	Winn & Natchitoches	Saline Lake	3,000	20	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	Vernon	Anacoco Lake	1,000	10	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
			9,500	75	

1989 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY ZONE AND PARISH CONT'D
LAKE REGION

ZONE	PARISH	HABITAT	ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	REMARKS
Ferryday	Concordia	Lower Sunk Lake	600	5	Three Rivers W.M.A. (Experimental Harvest)
		Silver Lakes	400	5	Three Rivers W.M.A. (Experimental Harvest)
	Tensas	Lake St. Joseph	800	20	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
		Lake St. John	200	20	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
			2,000	50	
Lake Charles	Evangeline	Chicot Lake	1,625	16	State Parks (Experimental Harvest)
			1,625	16	
Opelousas	Avoyelles	Grassy Lake WMA	1,000	20	Highest Bidder Basis
		Spring Bayou WMA	5,000	50	Highest Bidder Basis
	St. Martin	Atchalayaya N.W.R. Bayou des Ourse Brake	1,300	13	Highest Bidder Basis

1989 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY ZONE AND PARISH
CYPRESS-TUPELO SWAMP REGION

ZONE	PARISH	ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
Opelousas	Iberville	29,880	120	250	Tag Allotment based upon night counts and alligator model.
	Lafayette	1,200	5	250	
	Pointe Coupee	1,000	4	250	
	W.Baton Rouge	7,040	28	250	
SUB TOTAL		38,120	157	250	
Baton Rouge	Ascension	40,320	161	250	
	E.Baton Rouge	2,000	8	250	
	Livingston	66,720	267	250	
	Tangipahoa	36,181	145	250	
SUB TOTAL		145,221	581	250	
New Orleans	St. Charles	39,340	157	250	
	St. James	76,960	308	250	
	St. John	104,320	417	250	
SUB TOTAL		220,620	882	250	

1989 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY ZONE AND PARISH CONT'D
 CYPRESS-TUPELO SWAMP REGION

ZONE	PARISH	ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
New Iberia- Bourg	Assumption	98,560	394	250	
	Iberia	31,550	126	250	
	Lafourche	112,350	449	250	
	St. Mary	60,190	241	250	
	Terrebonne	43,014	172	250	
SUB TOTAL		345,664	1,382	250	
SWAMP TOTAL		749,625	3,002	250	

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN ALLIGATOR HABITAT

REGION	ACREAGE	DESCRIPTION
A. Henderson Lake	15,000	Bounded on the West by the West Guide Levee, on the North by Little Fardoche Bayou, on the East by the Haha Bay and Gim Slough and on the South by La. Hwy. 3177.
B. Crook Chene Cove- Buffalo Cove	32,000	Beginning at the NW corner of Attakapas W.M.A.: A line North along Lake Fausse Point Cut to Bayou Benoit; West to the West Guide Levee, North to the East-West Canal located approximately 3 miles South of Catahoula, La.: East approximately 2 miles to canal; Southeast on that same canal to Bayou Crook Chene; East to the main channel of the Atchafalaya River; South to the North boundary of Attakapas W.M.A.; west to point of beginning.
C. Spike Bay-Berry Lake	8,000	Beginning at a point 1-1/2 miles NW of Bayou Sorrel Landing: West along canal 5 miles; South along Spike Bay for 2 miles; East to intersect Bayou Sorrel then continue East along Bayou Sorrel to East Guide Levee; North to point of beginning.
D. Upper Grand River Flats	12,000	Beginning at Upper Grand River Landing: North along East Guide Levee approximately 9 miles to a canal running NW; NW along that canal 2-1/2 miles to King's Ditch; South approximately 5 miles to include Billy Little Lakes; SE approximately 4 miles to intersection of Upper Grant River and Little Tensas Bayou, East along Upper Grand River to point of beginning.

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN ALLIGATOR HABITAT CONT'D

REGION	ACREAGE	DESCRIPTION
E. Bayou Pigeon- Belle River- Flat Lake	140,000	Beginning at Bayou Pigeon Landing; South along East Guide Levee to Morgan City (excluding Flat Lake); NNW along East side of the main channel of Six Mile Lake approximately 10 miles to 21-Inch Canal; NE on 21-Inch Canal to Bayou Boutte; North on Bayou Boutte to the East boundary line of Attakapas W.M.A. then north along its East boundary to Grand Lake; North along the East bank of Grand Lake to Keelboat Pass; NE along Keelboat Pass and Flat Lake Pass to intersection of Williams Canal and a canal running SW-NE; Northeast along that canal to intersection of Intracoastal Canal (East Guide Levee); South to Bayou Pigeon Landing.

Total alligator habitat within basin habitat type 207,000 acres Tags may be issued at the rate of one tag per 1,280 acres of habitat.

1989 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY REGIONS

REGION	ACRES OF HABITAT	POTENTIAL TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
Lakes	100,000	1,000	100	Includes public lakes as well as private Cypress-Lake habitat.
Cypress-Tupelo Swamp	750,000	3,000	250	Swamp habitat outside the Atchafalaya Basin.
Atchafalaya Basin	207,000	161	1,280	That portion of the Atchafalaya Basin determined to be Cypress-Tupelo swamp containing permanent water as determined by aerial observations as well as approximately 400 miles of travel by boat during April-June, 1985.
GRAND TOTAL	1,057,000	4,161		

Approved by:

Virginia Van Sickle
 Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary
 La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

- 1.) Roll call.
- 2.) Introductory remarks.
- 3.) Marine Finfish Panel.
- 4.) Description of the commercial fishery.
- 5.) Description of the recreational fishery.
- 6.) Stock assessment.
- 7.) Management options.
- 8.) Public testimony.

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

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- 8.) Public testimony.

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
SEPTEMBER 19, 1989

1. Roll Call o
2. Black Drum Fishery Management Plan and Stock Assessment

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ARTICLE II

REGULAR MEETINGS

1. The regular meetings of the Commission shall be as set at any regular or special meeting by resolution adopted by a majority of the members present in person.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

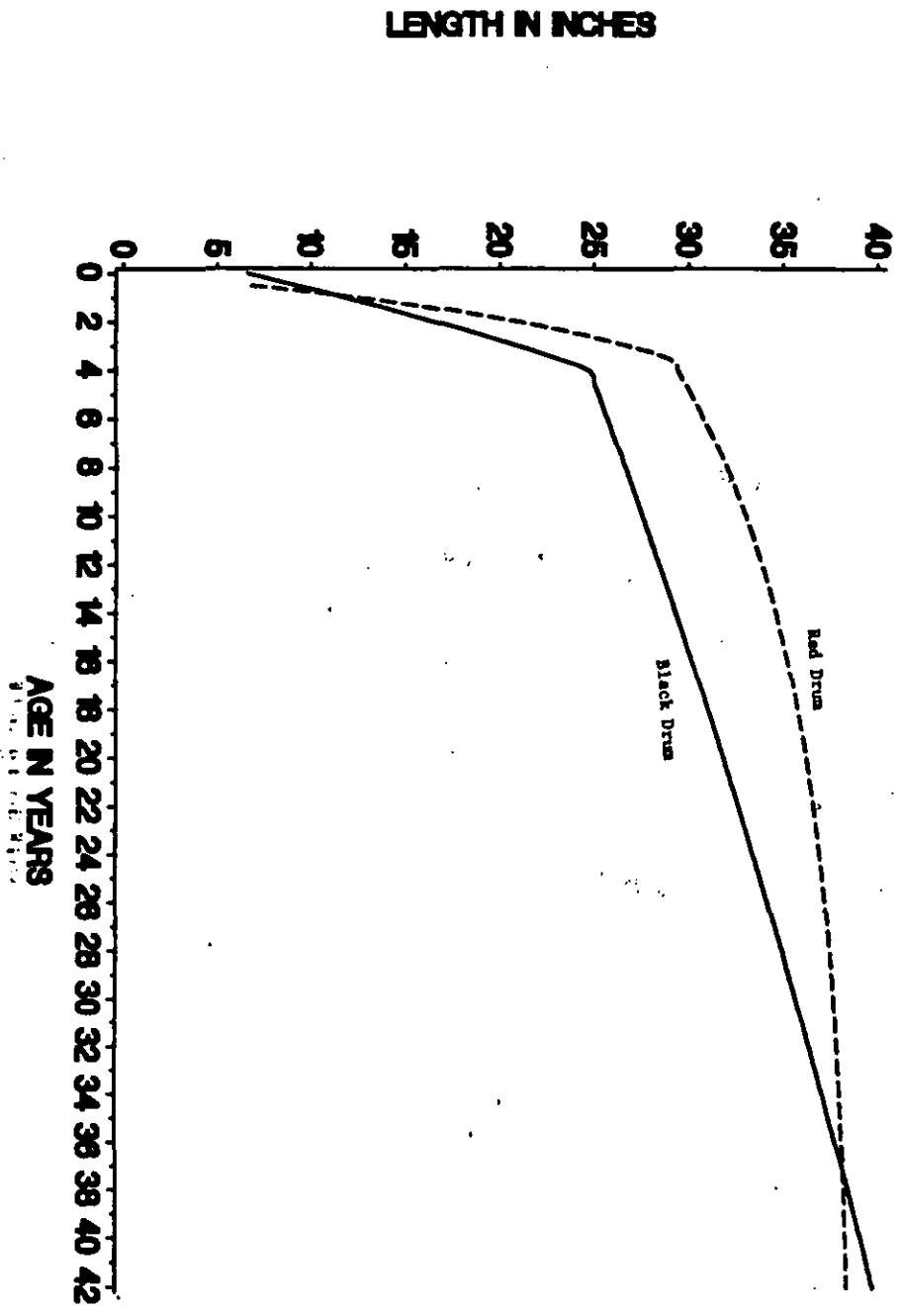
1. Special meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chairman, at his discretion, and shall be called by the chairman upon written request of any four members. The notice of each special meeting shall state the purpose for which it is called, and only those matters shall be considered that have been included in the call, unless every member of the Commission is present at the called meeting and a quorum of the Board agrees to take up other matters.

2. The chairman, shall cause written notices of the time and place of special meetings to be mailed, or hand delivered, to each member, at the addresses as they appear in the records of the Commission, at least three days before the day on which the meeting is to be held, or shall communicate the notice of such meetings to the members by telegram or telephone not later than 24 hours before the meeting is to be held.

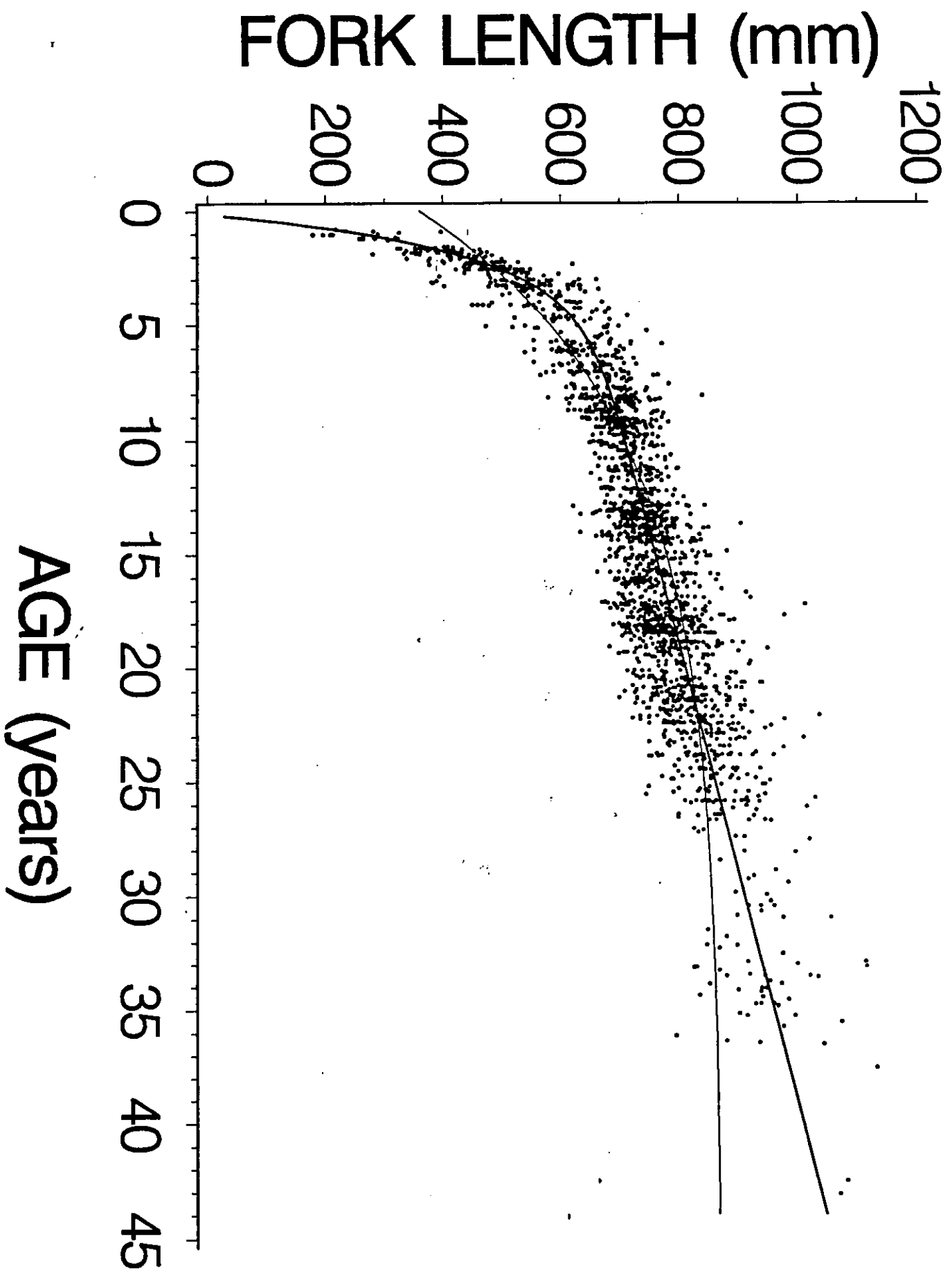
ATTENDANCE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

1. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall attend all meetings of the Commission unless excused, or directed by the Commission not to attend, or unless other appropriate staff alternates, acceptable to the Commission by prior arrangement, are designated by the Secretary to attend.

COMPARING GROWTH RATE OF REDDRUM AND BLACKDRUM



von Bertalanffy model with sloped asymptote



BLACK DRUM

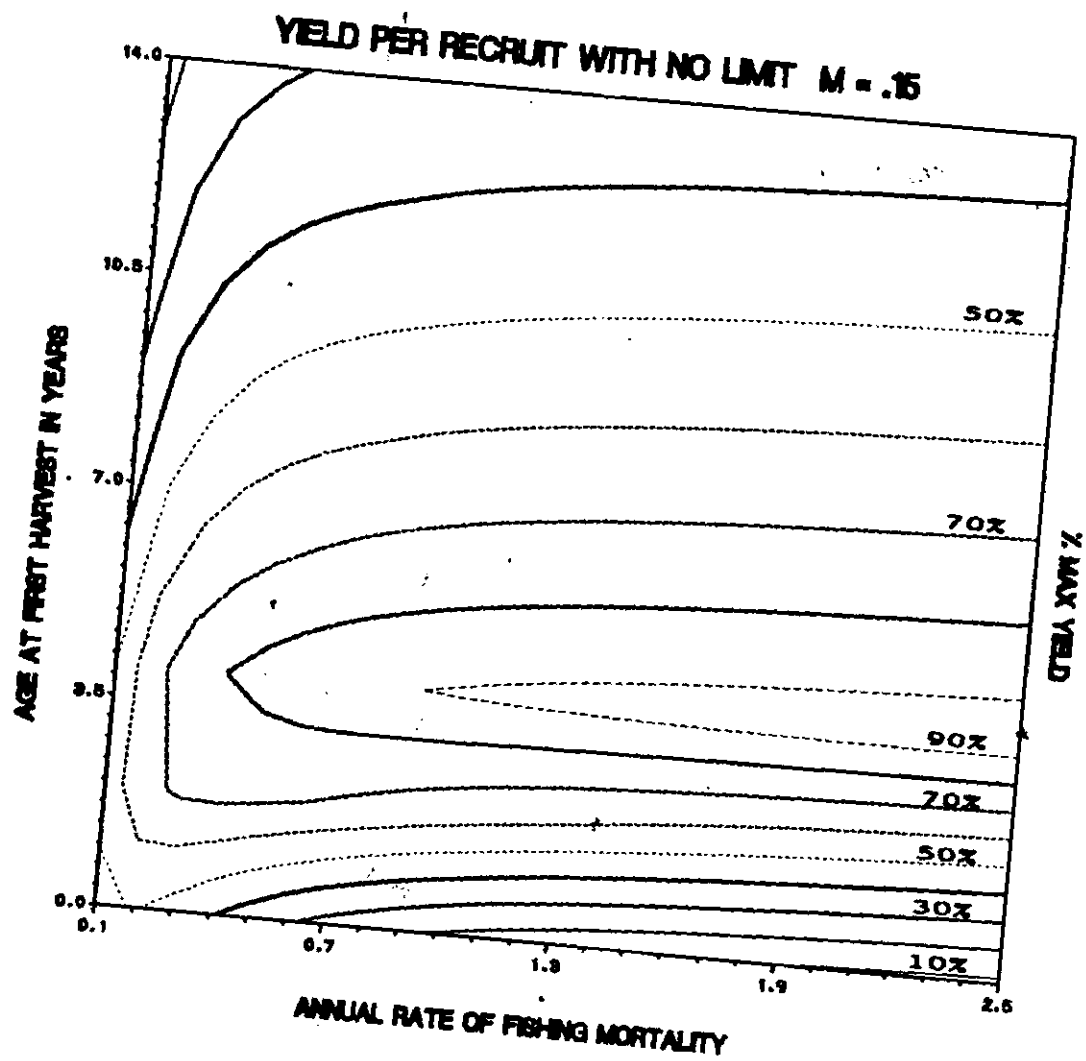
Age (years)	Length (inches)	Weight (pounds)
1	10.3	0.6
2	17.1	2.8
3	21.0	5.2
4	23.3	7.2
5	24.7	8.6
6	25.7	9.6
7	26.4	10.5
8	27.0	11.2
9	27.4	11.8
10	27.9	12.4
15	29.9	15.3
20	31.8	18.6
25	33.8	22.3
30	35.8	26.5
35	37.7	31.2
40	39.7	36.4

NATURAL MORTALITY

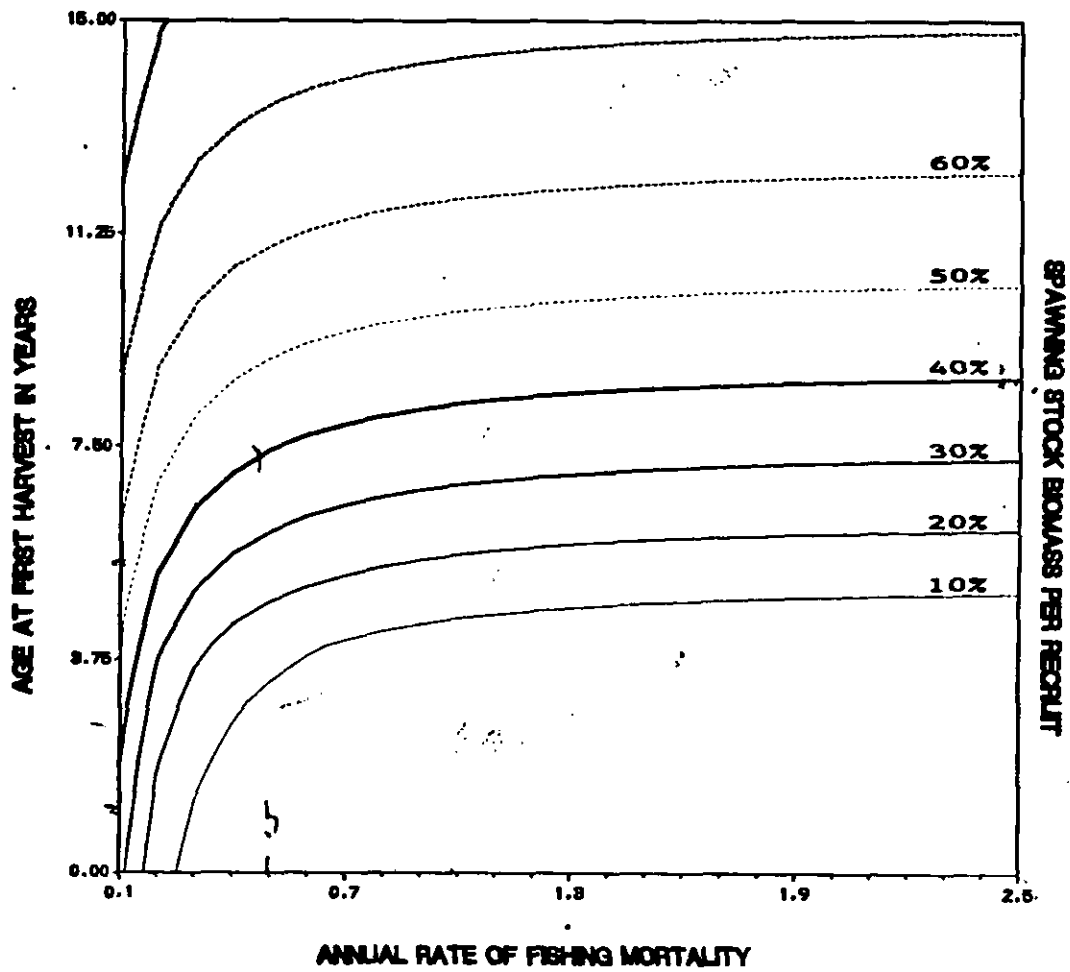
M annual natural mortality rate	% of population dying during the year
0.1	10%
0.2	18%
0.5	39%
1.0	63%
1.5	78%
2.0	86%

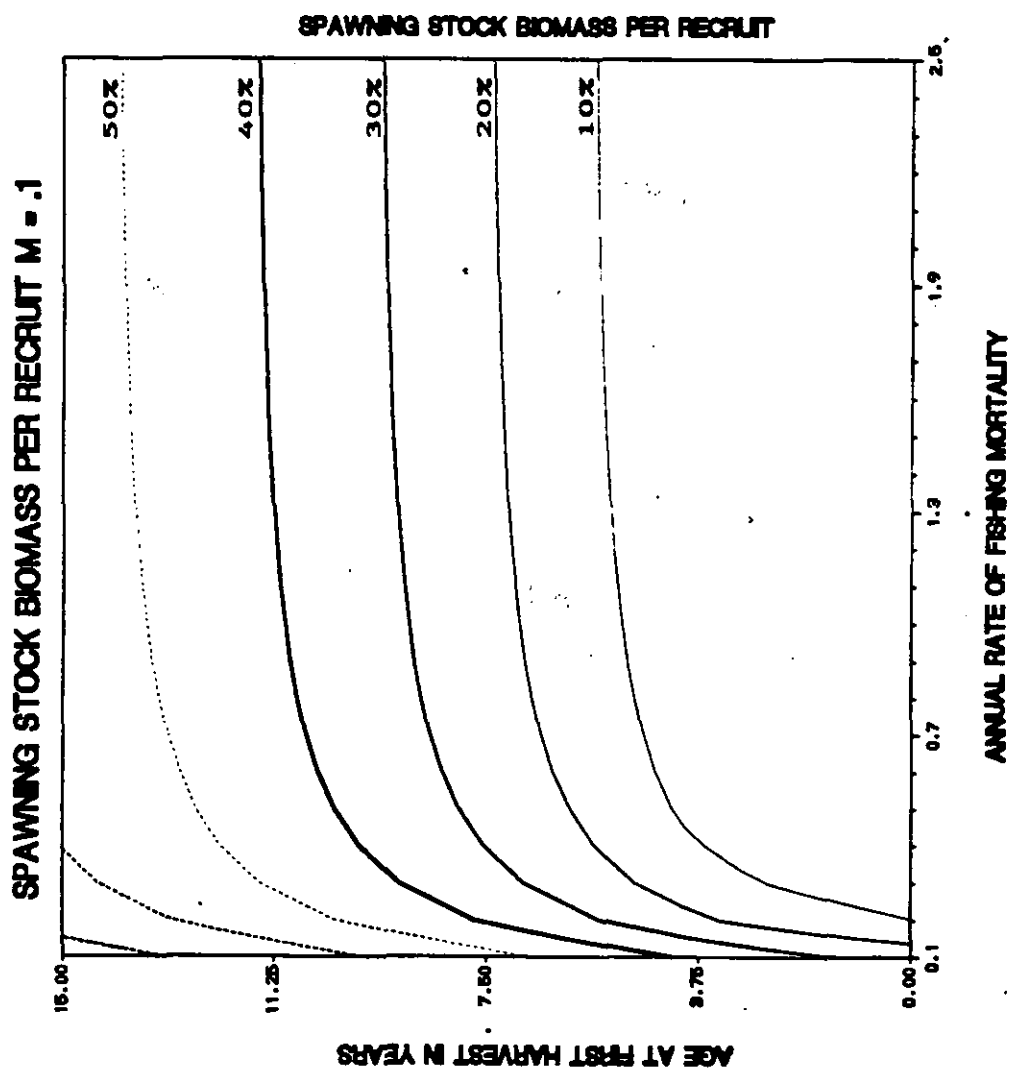
Based on these analyses and considerations, we will use a range of instantaneous natural mortality rates of 0.10 to 0.20 in this report, about a mean value of 0.15, so as to allow our other discussions to be sensitive to our uncertainty in exact rate of natural mortality.

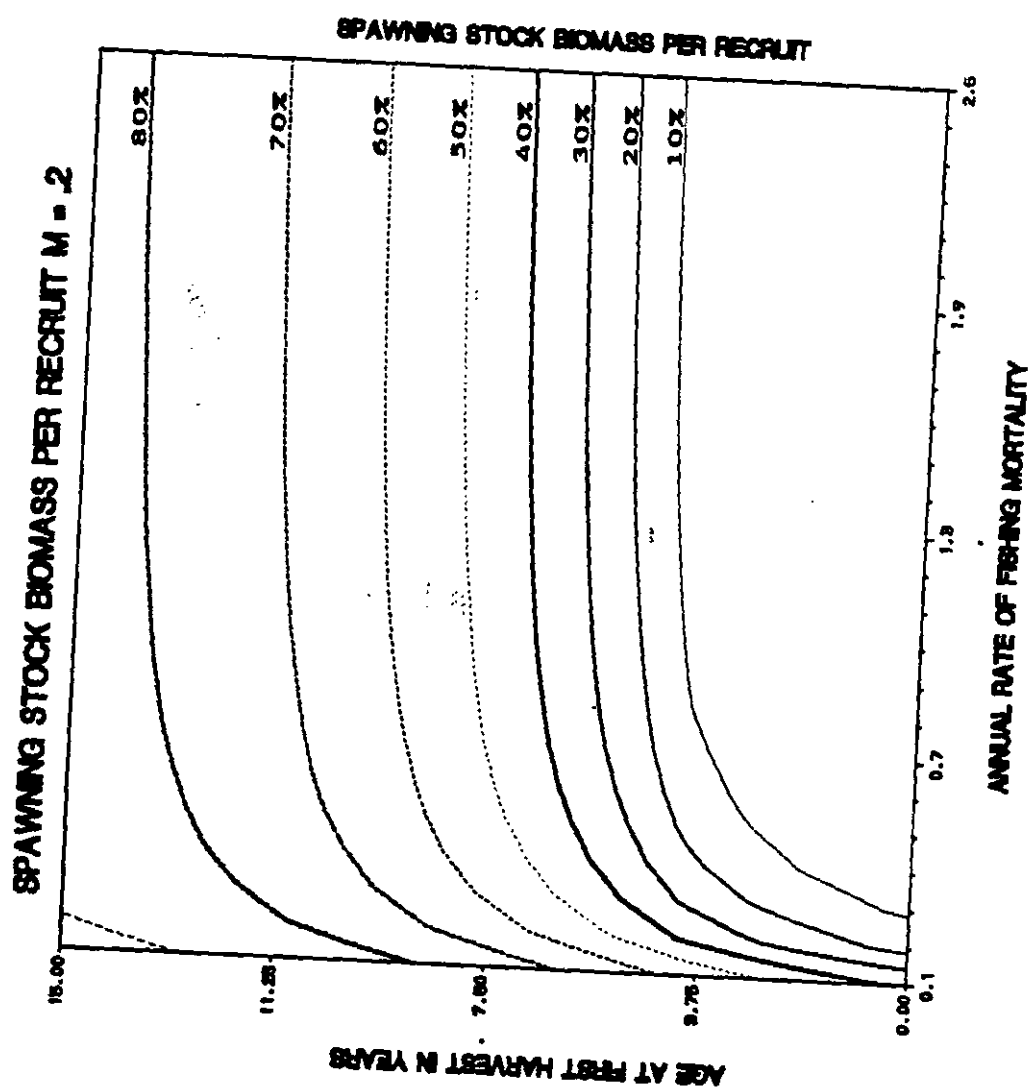
<u>Age of fish</u> (months)	<u>Number of fish</u>		Weight of an		Weight of	
			<u>individual fish</u> (pounds)		the population of <u>fish in the pond</u> (pounds)	
1	900	X	0.2	=	180	
2	820	X	1.0	=	820	
3	740	X	2.7	=	1,998	
4	670	X	3.5	=	2,345	
5	610	X	4.0	=	2,440	
6	550	X	4.2	=	2,310	
7	500	X	4.4	=	2,200	
8	450	X	4.6	=	2,070	



SPAWNING STOCK BIOMASS PER RECRUIT $M = .15$







Reproduction

Single annual spawning cycle

begins in late late October-early November

peaks in January-February

ends in late April

mature black drum appear to spawn inshore and offshore

black drum are group synchronous, batch spawners

Sexually mature at 5 years of age

Current age structure

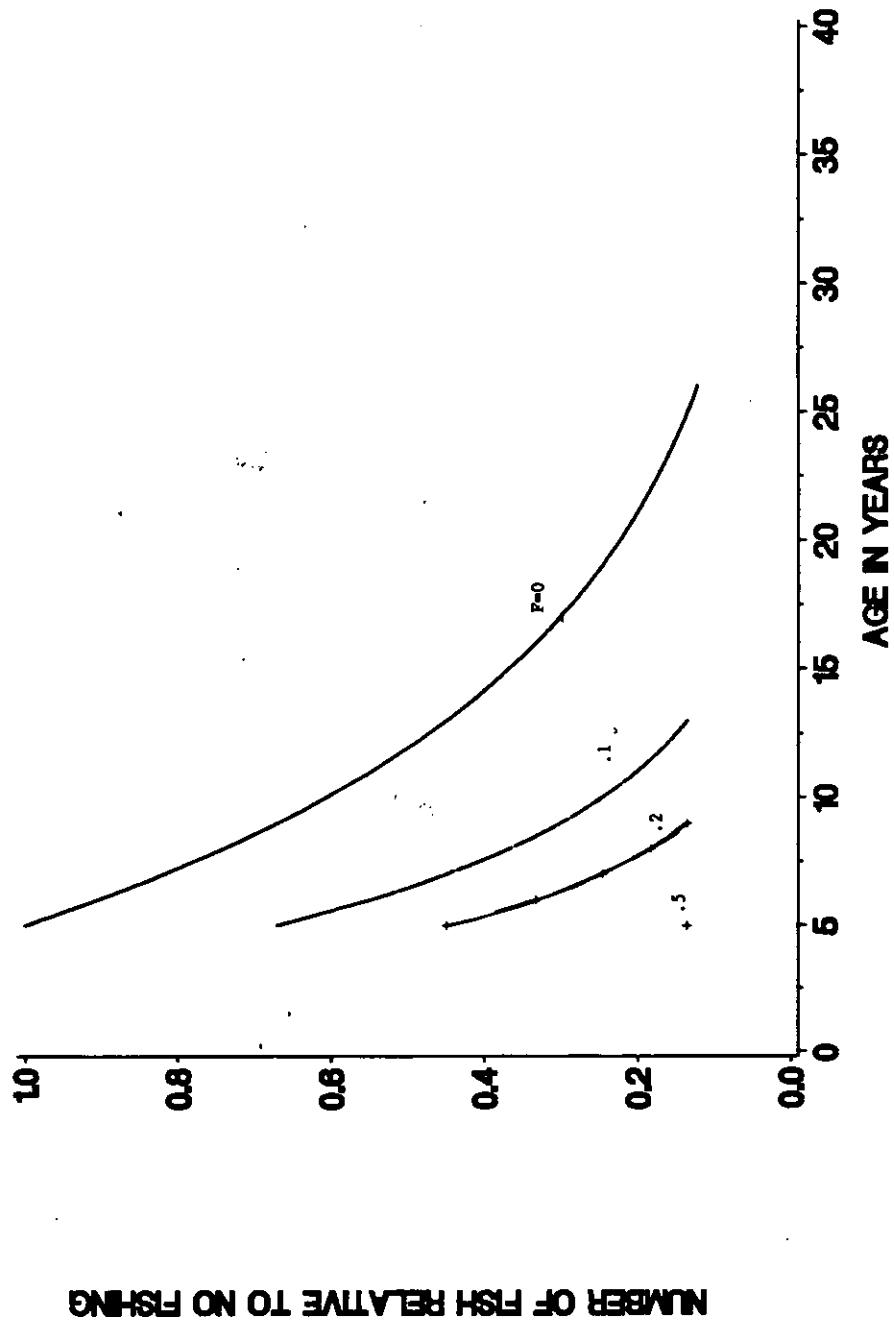
Long-lived

age information from gill net, trawl, haul seine, purse seines and hook and line catches, 1986-1988 indicates a predominance of fish from the 1962-1981 year classes

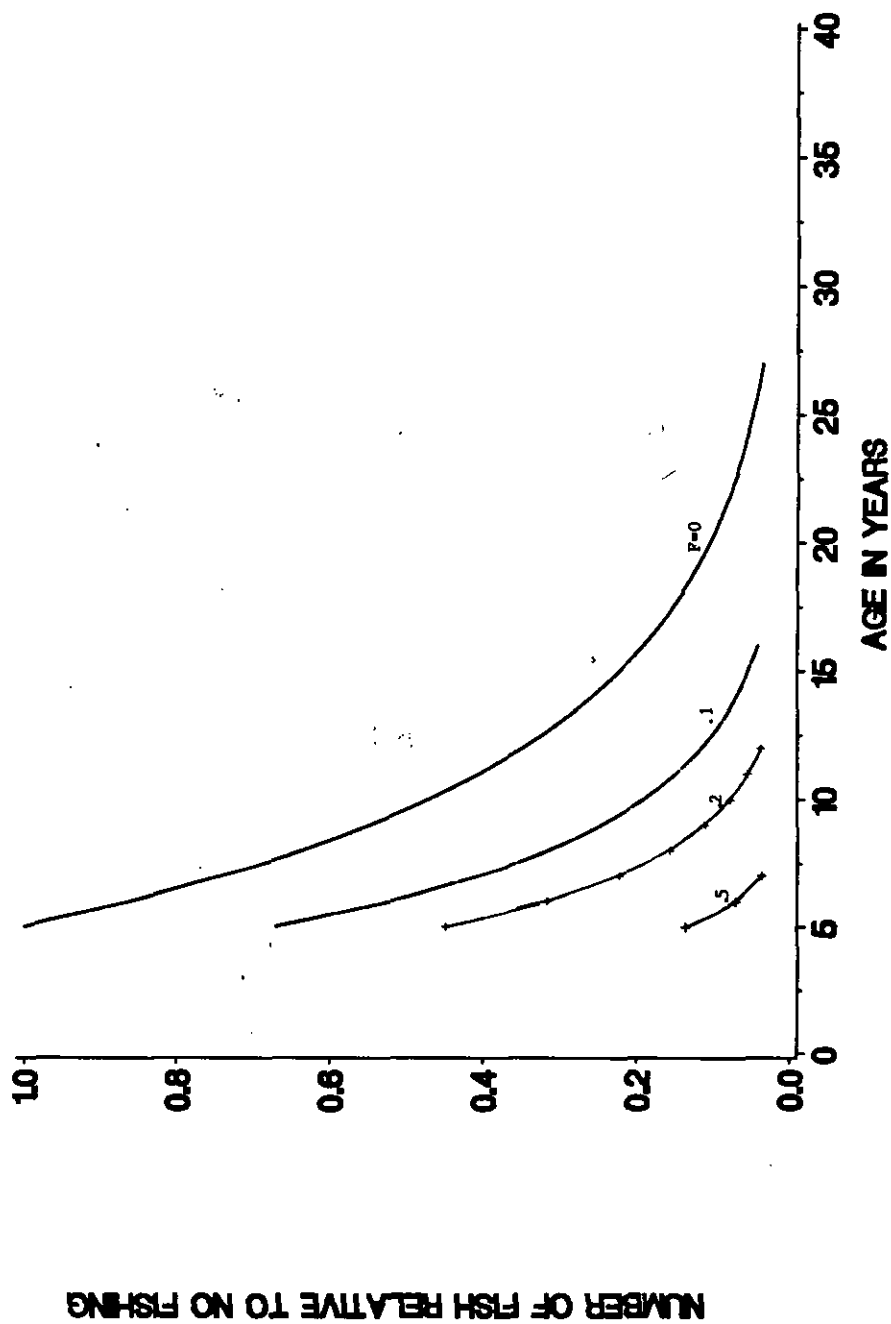
a 4 to 5 year cycle of strong versus weak year classes is suggested

occurrence of many year classes in the spawning pool contributes to stability by dampening the impact of widely fluctuating year class strength

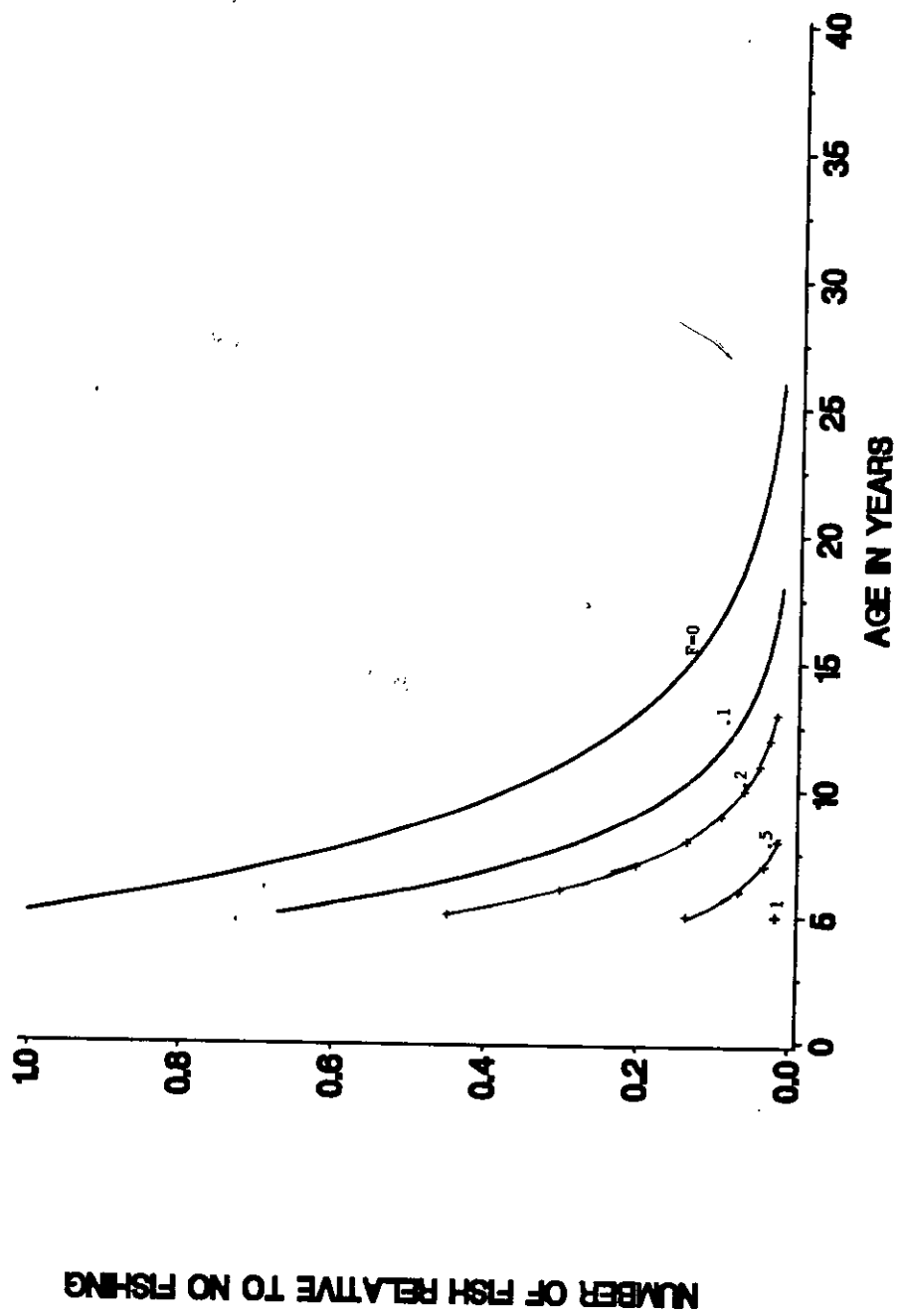
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .1$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES GREATER THAN 1



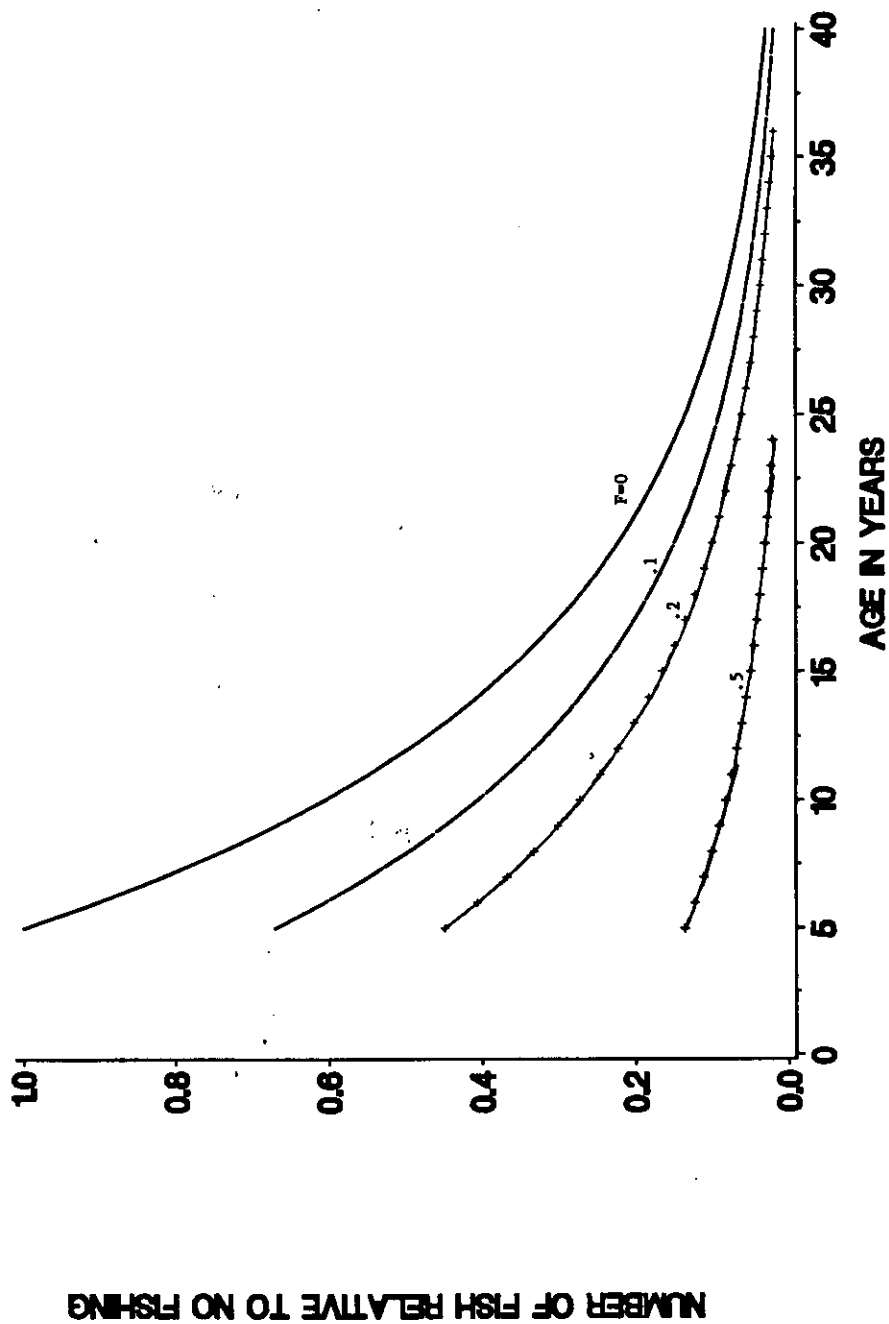
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .15$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES GREATER THAN 1



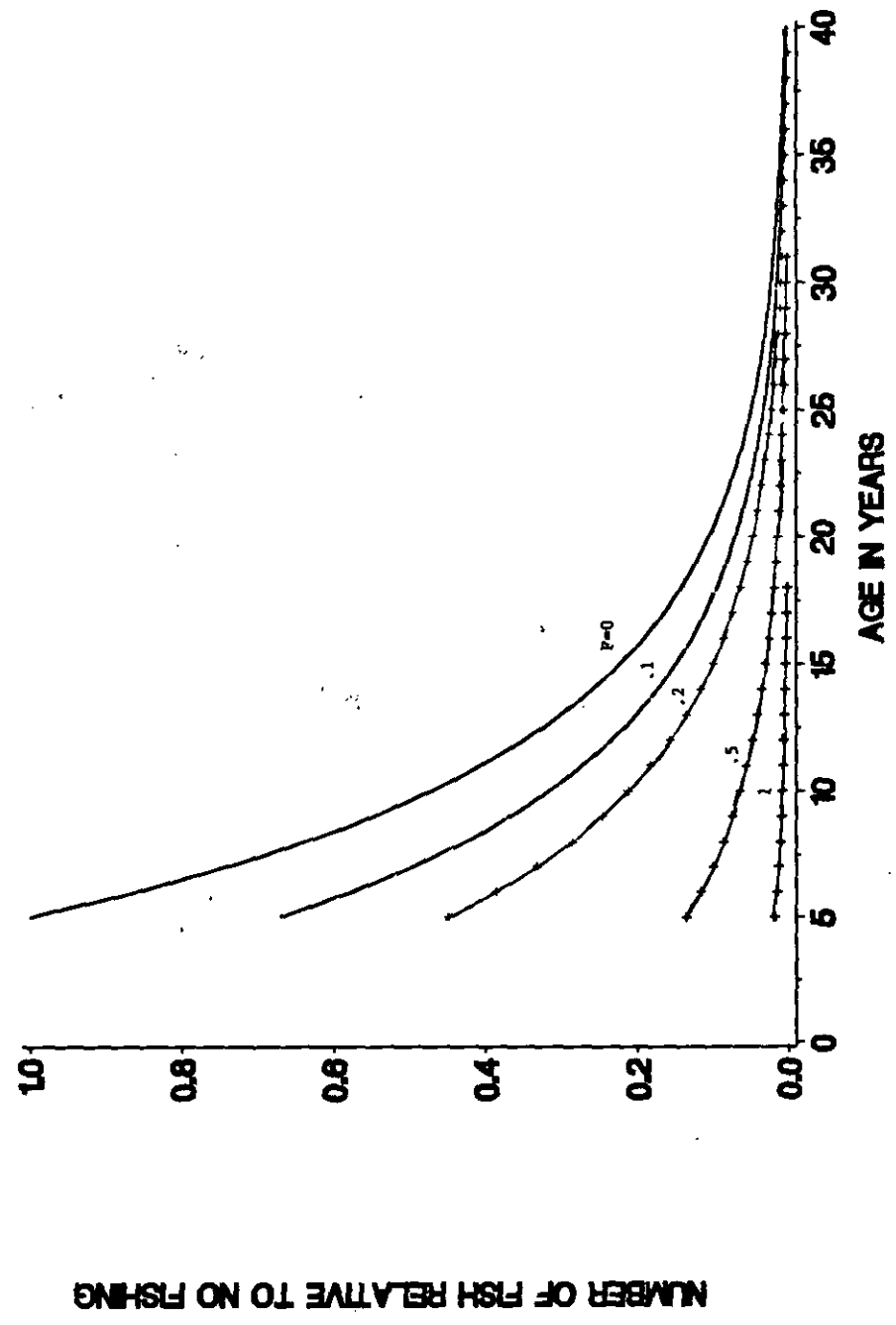
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .2$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES GREATER THAN 1



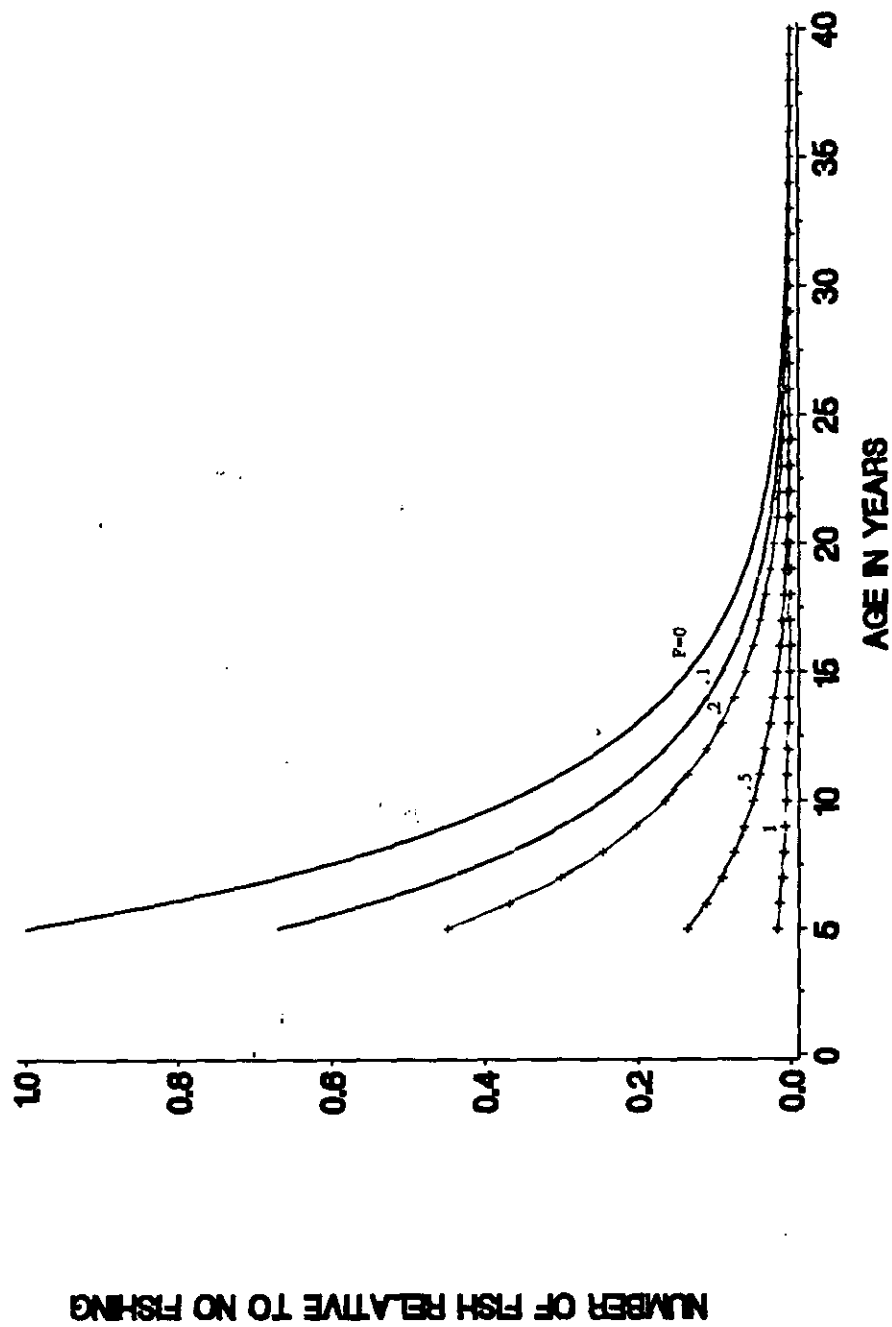
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .1$, FISHING ACROSS AGES ONE THROUGH FOUR



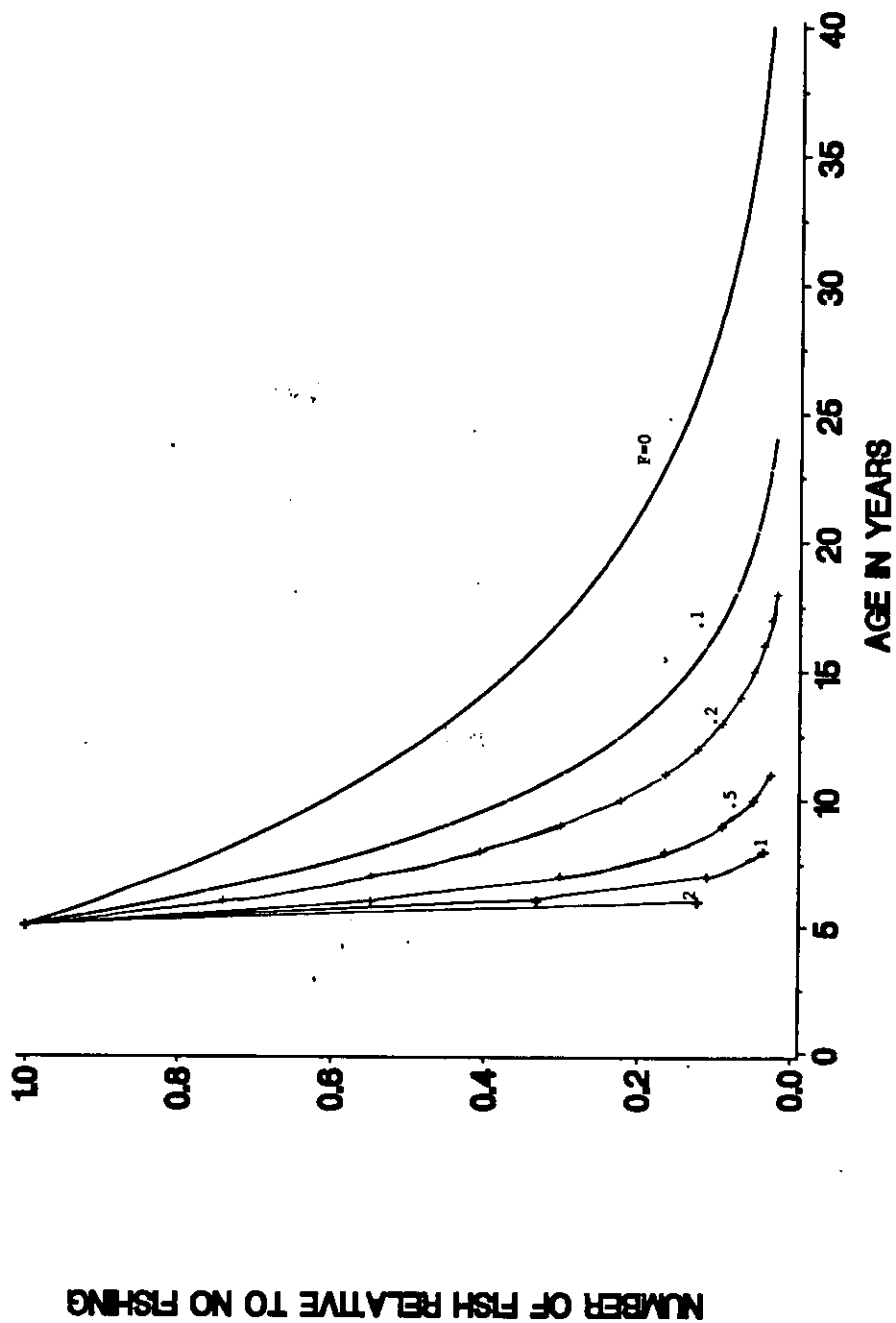
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .15$, FISHING ACROSS AGES ONE THROUGH FOUR



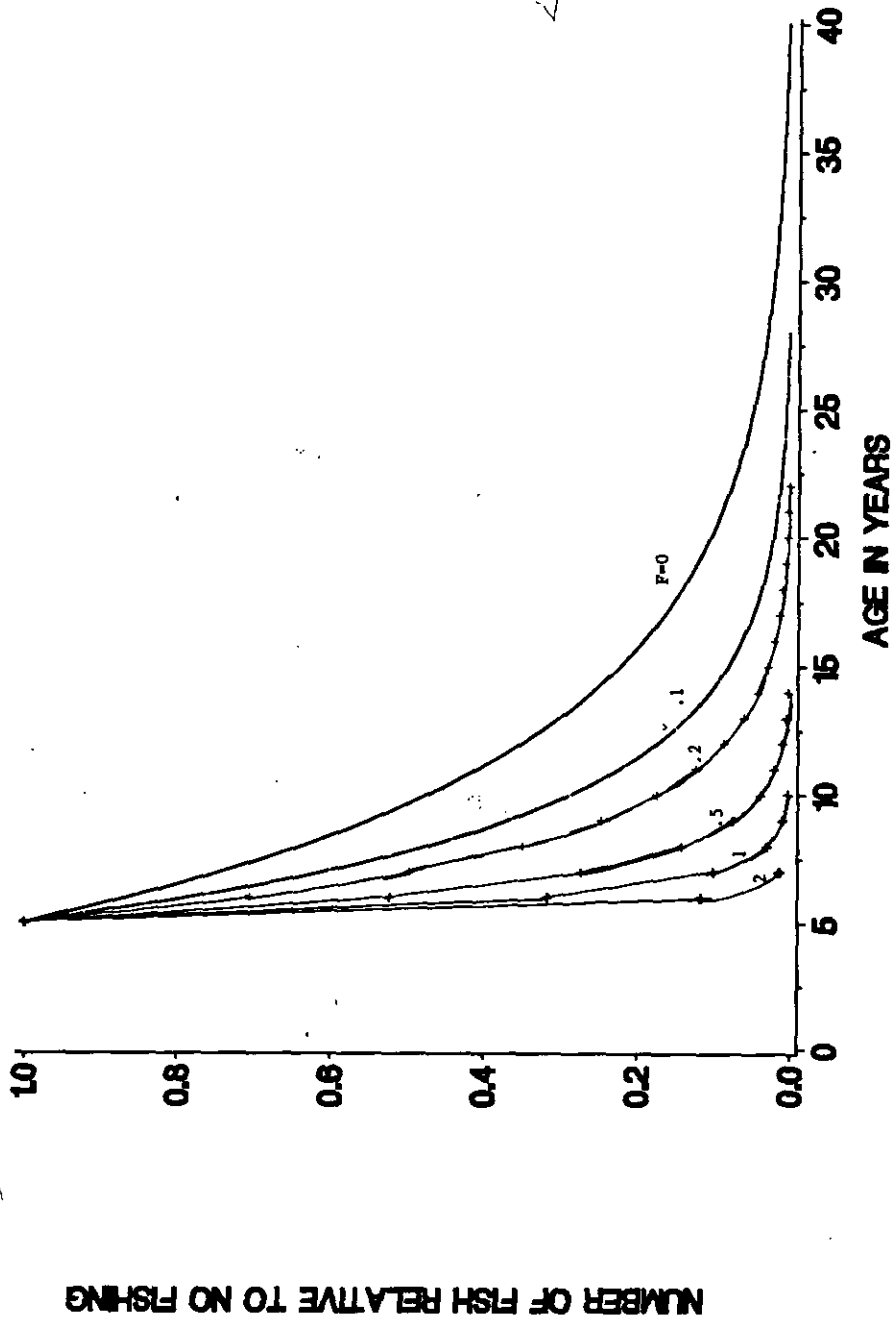
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .2$, FISHING ACROSS AGES ONE THROUGH FOUR



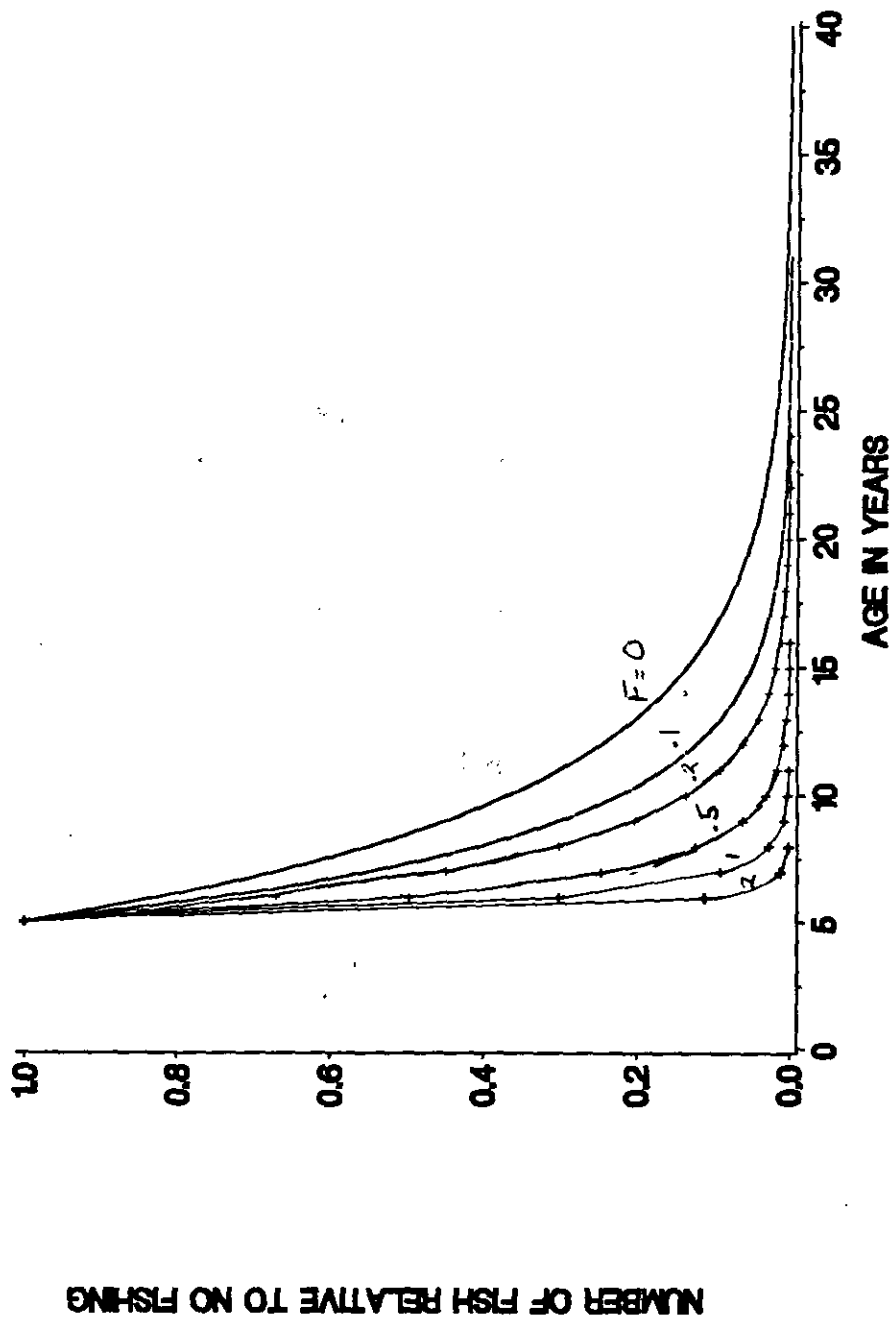
AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .1$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES FIVE AND GREATER



AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .15$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES FIVE AND GREATER

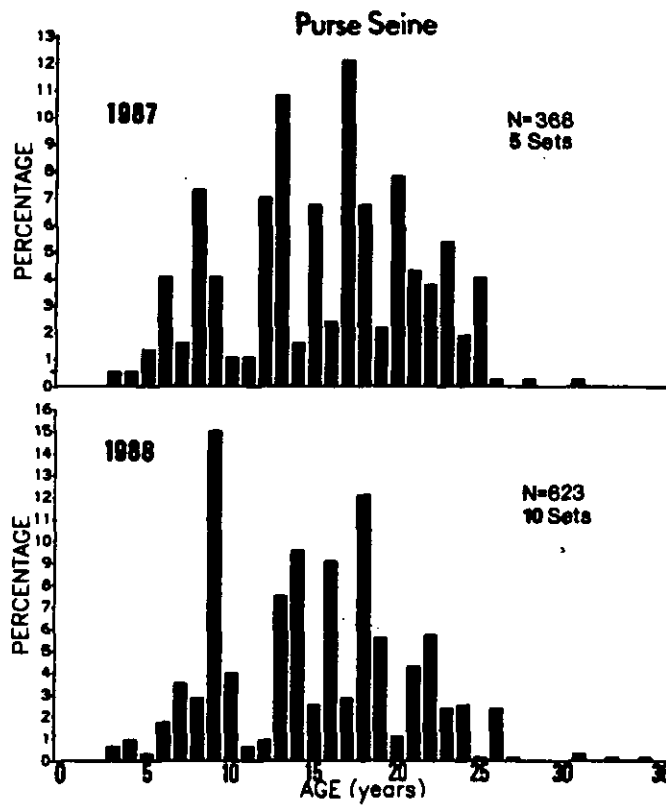


AGE STRUCTURE, $M = .2$, FISHING ACROSS ALL AGES FIVE AND GREATER



The Primary Conservation Standard

In the presence of any fishery, the present age structure of the adult population which is vulnerable to the purse seine fishery will not be reduced below an age of 20 years, given that the current effective upper bound is presently 27 years of age. Further, the general shape of the descending arm of the current curve will remain, despite any harvest strategy which may allow a reduction in the effective age structure from 27 to 20 years of age.



DRAFT

REPORT

OF

AD HOC BLACK DRUM

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: HARLON PEARCE

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BLACK DRUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ON AUGUST 31, 1989 AT THE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES BUILDING LOCATED ON QUAIL DRIVE IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. THIS MEETING, CHAIRED BY JOHN ROUSSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES, GAVE US THE BASIC GUIDELINES UNDER WHICH WE WOULD WORK. THE MEETING WAS FOR ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. A CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY WAS CHOSEN AS WELL AS THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BLACK DRUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ONE WEEK LATER ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1989 AT THE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES BUILDING LOCATED ON QUAIL DRIVE IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. THIS MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY CHAIRMAN HARLON PEARCE. THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE THE DATA GATHERED DURING THIS MEETING. THIS DATA IS IN DRAFT FORM AT THE PRESENT AWAITING APPROVAL AT OUR NEXT MEETING. NO MEETING DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR OUR THIRD MEETING BECAUSE WE ARE WAITING FOR THE REPORTS OF THE BLACK DRUM SCIENTIFIC STOCK ASSESSMENT GROUP.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES GIVE THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES OF LOUISIANA A DESCRIPTION OF THE BLACK DRUM FISHERY, DEVELOPED BY INDUSTRY; WHICH HAS NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE IN THE PAST.

WE DIVIDED THE STATE INTO GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES AS FOLLOWS:

ZONE 1 - MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA (FROM VENICE SOUTHWARD)
 ZONE 2 - EAST OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO MISSISSIPPI STATE LINE
 ZONE 3 - FROM MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO ATCHAFALAYA RIVER
 ZONE 4 - FROM ATCHAFALYA RIVER TO WESTERN BOUNDRY OF WHITE LAKE
 ZONE 5 - FROM WESTERN BOUNDRY OF WHITE LAKE TO TEXAS STATE LINE

FOUR SIZE CATEGORIES WERE ESTABLISHED AS FOLLOWS:

ONE TO TWO POUND FISH (1 - 2)
 TWO TO FIVE POUND FISH (2 - 5)
 SIX TO TEN POUND FISH (6 - 10)
 FISH TEN POUNDS OR LARGER (> - 10)

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FISHERMEN IN THE BLACK DRUM FISHERY:

ST. TAMANY, TANGIPAHOA	14
EAST ORLEANS	15
BUCKTOWN	20
KENNER	3-4
LOWER ST. BERNARD	25
LOWER PLAQUEMINE	100
LAFITTE	20-25
DES ALLEMANDS	2
LEEVILLE	30
TERREBONNE	40
ST. MARY	25
IBERIA	5-6
VERMILION	10
CAMERON, CALCASIEU	40

ESTIMATED TOTAL 350

AFTER ESTABLISHING ZONES AND SIZES, WE DISCUSSED THE FISHERY IN EACH ZONE MONTH BY MONTH AS TO THE AMOUNT OF PRODUCTION OF THE RESOURCE BY SIZES AND GEAR TYPE USED.

THE BLACK DRUM FISHERY CONSISTS OF TWO DISTINCT FISHERIES. THEY ARE DIRECTED FISHERIES AT THOSE FISH TEN POUNDS AND UNDER AND THOSE FISH LARGER THAN TEN POUNDS. WE FOUND THAT SOME FISHERMEN TARGET SMALL FISH AS OTHERS TARGET LARGER FISH. THE SMALLER DRUM ARE MARKETING IN LOUISIANA AND ADJACENT STATES WHEREAS THE LARGE DRUM IS MARKETING MOST HEAVILY IN OTHER THAN GULF COAST STATES. IN SOME CASES GEAR TYPES DIFFER IN THE TWO FISHERIES. IT WAS ALSO BROUGHT UP THAT LESSOR PRODUCTION OF LARGE DRUM IS ATTRIBUTED TO A REDUCED MARKET IN SOME AREAS.

WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE AVERAGE YEAR ROUND PRICES FOR THE SIZES AND CLASSES OF FISH. THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS:

1-2	-	\$0.15 TO \$0.25 WITH SOME SMALL SCALE, LOCAL EXCEPTIONS
2-5	-	\$1.00 WITH STRONG YEAR ROUND MARKET
6-10	-	\$0.60 WITH STRONG YEAR ROUND MARKET
>-10	-	BULL DRUM ARE PURCHASED ON A PER FISH BASIS, NOT A PER POUND BASIS. THE AVERAGE ANNUAL PER FISH PRICE IS ABOUT \$2.00 AND THE AVERAGE SIZE IS 17-18 POUNDS

PRODUCTION IN THE ONE TO TWO POUND CLASS COULD BE MUCH HIGHER, HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT A DESIRABLE FISH IN THE MARKET PLACE. THERE IS AN EXCELLENT MARKET FOR ALL FISH IN THE TWO POUND AND LARGER CLASS.

THE NEXT THREE PAGES BREAKDOWN THE VOLUME OF CATCH BY SIZE, BY GEAR USED AND BY SIZE LANDED IN THE FIVE ZONES.

Good = ###
Fair = ##
Poor = #

[illegible]

1-2	***	***	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	***
2-5	***	***	***	***	***	***	*	*	***	***	***	***
6-10	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
> 10	*	*	**	*	*	*	***	***	*	*	*	*

1-2	***	***	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2-5	**	**	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
6-10	**	**	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	**	***	***
> 10	*	*	*	**	***	***	***	***	***	*	*	*

1-2	***	***	*	*	*	*	*	**	**	***	***	***
2-5	***	***	*	**	*	*	*	**	**	***	***	***
6-10	***	***	***	*,	***	*	*	**	**	**	***	***
> 10	***	***	***	***	*	*	*	*	*	*	***	***

1-2	***	***	***	**	**	*	*	*	***	***	***	***
2-5	***	***	***	**	**	*	*	*	***	**	***	***
6-10	***	***	***	**	**	*	*	**	**	**	***	***
> 10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**	**	*	*	*

[illegible]

Gillnet = GN
Trammelnet = TN
Seine = S
Trawl = TR

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

GN	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TN			*	*	*					*	*	*
S												
TR		*	*									

GN	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TN				*	*					*	*	*
S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TR				*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*

GN	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*
TN		*	*	*						*	*	*
S	*	*	*	*						*	*	*
TR		*	*		*					*	*	*

GN	*	*	*	*	*
TN	*	*	*	*	*
S	*	*	*	*	*
TR					

[illegible]

Zone 1

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1-2												*
2-5	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*
6-10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
> 10		*	*				*	*				

Zone 2

[illegible]

Zone 3

1-2	井	井	井			井	井	井	井	井
2-5	井	井	井	井	井	井	井	井	井	井
6-10	井	井	井	井		井	井	井	井	井
> 10	井	井	井	井					井	井

Zone 4

1-2	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
2-5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6-10	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
> 10						*	*	*		

Zone 5

1-2	*	*	*	*
2-5	*	*	*	*
6-10	*	*	*	*
> 10				

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN:

HARLON H. PEARCE, JR.	4712 RUE LAURENT METAIRIE, LA 70002	504 738 6091 WORK 503 456 2346 HOME
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VICE CHAIRMAN:

JANE BLACK	RT 1 BOX 280 GALLIANO, LA 70354	504 475 6770 WORK 504 475 5620 HOME
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SECRETARY:

CRAIG BORGES	4508 BURKE DR METAIRIE, LA 70003	504 455 3613 WORK 504 523 4002 HOME
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ALFORD WESTER, JR	524 9TH STREET GRETN, LA 70053	504 364 1619
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HARRY BROWN	HC 69, BOX 9A CAMERON, LA 70631	318 569 2475
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RAY CARLINE	P O BOX 718 CHARENTON, LA 70523	318 923 4094
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STEVEN DARGIS	210 POPLAR APT A METAIRIE, LA 70005	504 837 5855
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TONY GAIMBELLUCA	RT 3, BOX 621 COVINGTON, LA 70433	504 893 1703 WORK 505 893 3474 HOME
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CLIFF GLOCKNER, JR	P O BOX 128 LACOMBE, LA 70433	504 882 5755
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TERRY LEBLANC	STAR ROUTE BOX 128 CHAUVIN, LA 70344	504 594 4186
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JIM RICH	P O BOX 759 ABBEVILLE, LA	318 893 4282 WORK 318 643 6700 HOME
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LAWRENCE STIPELCOVITCH "BROTHER"	BOX 272 EMPIRE, LA	504 657 9645
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September 1, 1989

Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

Dear Ms. Van Sickle,

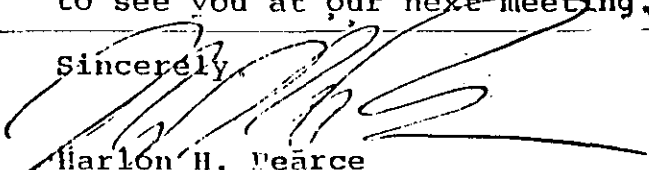
I am contacting you on behalf of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Advisory Committee of which I have been elected chairman. We as a committee would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve and express our willingness to extend scientific management to this fishery.

However, we are gravely concerned about the possibility of not being able to do our job, if overly hasty action is taken by the Department or Commission, in relation to an emergency closure. Not only are black drum not in as grave a danger as red drum, a closure put into effect without consultation with both this committee and The Saltwater Finfish Panel would result in a serious loss of goodwill on the part of the users of this resource. The committee is asking for a chance to do the job for which it was created. We would like to move as quickly as your technical people produce information to act on however we fear overreaction before we can accomplish our task.

The committee has also expressed a strong feeling that we need the technical information on this fish to be brought to the committee in layman's terms that we as fishermen and dealers can better understand than scientific jargon.

We look forward to working with you and your department and hope to see you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,



Harlon H. Pearce
Chairman, Ad Hoc Black
Drum Advisory Committee
7133 Ivy St
Metairie, LA 70003

EMM/HP

cc: Jerry Clark
John Roussel

September 8, 1989

To: Members of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups

From: Richard Condrey, Chairman
Stock Assessment Subgroup

REC

The purpose of this memo is to review with you my understanding of the major accomplishments and conclusions of our August 31, 1989 meeting and to solicit your corrections, especially concerning our major conservation criterion.

1) We have good growth and natural mortality rates from a number of reliable studies, which agree closely.

2) We have meaningful yield-per-recruit and spawning-stock-biomass-per-recruit relationships which will continue to be constructed so that their sensitivity to variance in our parameter estimates will be evident.

3) We can simulate how the population's age structure will be impacted by various levels of fishing mortality.

4) From our examination of the ages in Dan's and John's samples it appears that the adult population of black drum contain many age classes, from 5 to at least 42 years, with the highest concentration in the ages less than 28 years. Within these ages there may well be strong variations in year class strength, which may well be described in cycles of about four years.

The species appears to have evolved to a position where the persistence of a large age-structure in the spawning biomass reduces the impact of natural variation in the abundance of individual year classes on the extent of the natural spawn. As a corollary, the probability that an individual adult will be able to replenish itself in the spawning biomass is enhanced under natural conditions by the likelihood that it will persist through many years of reproductive life.

5) We feel that the presence of many strong older age classes in the adult population is an important factor in the long-term stability of this stock and should be maintained. We have therefore adopted the following primary conservation standard and are in the process of assuring that it is conservative enough.

DRAFT

DRAFT

The Primary Conservation Standard

In the presence of any fishery, the present age structure of the adult population which is vulnerable to the purse seine fishery will not be reduced below an age of 20 years, given that the current effective upper bound is presently 27 years of age. Further, the general shape of the descending arm of the current curve will remain, despite any harvest strategy which may allow a reduction in the effective age structure from 27 to 20 years of age.

6) This is not a stock which can endure heavy fishing pressure. For example, if the stock is fished across all ages, fishing mortality cannot exceed 0.1 on an instantaneous annual basis. If the stock is fished across all ages greater than 5, then fishing mortality cannot exceed 0.2 on an annual basis. If the stock is harvested at moderate rates in ages 1 to 4, adults must likely be protected from harvest. If a single year class incurs comparatively heavy fishery mortality, all other ages will likely have to be protected from harvest.

7) This is a species which requires cooperative management by the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, because its life history features foster migration through several jurisdictions.

Please let me know if you have any corrections by September 13, as our initial draft assessment is due September 15.

State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

September 11, 1989

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission

FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*

SUBJECT: Special Commission Meeting

A special Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 1989, starting at 9 A.M. The meeting will be in the Louisiana Room, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Quail Drive, Baton Rouge.

1. Roll Call
2. Black Drum Fishery Management Plan and Stock Assessment

VVS:sb

C: Don Puckett
Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker
John Medica
Division Chiefs

September 11, 1989

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State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 88000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

A special Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 1989, starting at 9 A.M. The meeting will be in the Louisiana Room, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Quail Drive, Baton Rouge.

The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Black Drum Fishery Management Plan and Stock Assessment

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
Secretary



Contact
(504) 765-2917

89-106

9/11/89

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

A special meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be held Tuesday, Sept. 19, beginning at 9 a.m. The meeting will be in the Louisiana Room, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries building, Quail Drive, Baton Rouge.

The following items will be on the agenda:

- 1.) Roll call.
- 2.) Black drum fishery management plan and stock assessment.

OTHER BUSINESS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

POST OFFICE BOX 98000

BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

September 11, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission

FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*

SUBJECT: Special Commission Meeting

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1. Roll Call
2. Black Drum Fishery Management Plan and Stock Assessment

VVS:sb

C: Don Puckett
Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker
John Medica
Division Chiefs

Paula
I will not
be in attendance
Bettsie

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
Secretary

Contact
(504) 765-2917

89-106

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OTHER BUSINESS.

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**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 19, 1989**

Chairman Dr. Don Hines Presiding:

Tuesday, September 19, 1989

James Jenkins
Norman McCall
Warren Pol

Secretary Virginia Van Sickle was also present.

Dr. Don Hines called to order the special meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Four members present, represents a quorum.

Dr. Hines announced meeting was called to discuss the Black Drum Fishery Management Plan and Stock Assessment.

Secretary Van Sickle commented that the purpose of the meeting was two fold. First is to focus on the Black Drum, a close relative of the Red Drum, a fish that has experienced a very dramatic increase in harvest. Second is to discuss possible emergency action. A Finfish Panel is currently looking at all the different marine finfish and specific panels have been set up to look at Black Drum as an individual species. The makeup of the panels is as follows:

1. Stock Assessment Group headed by Dr. Richard Condrey

2. Technical Working Group headed by Daniel Beckman, LSU
Coastal Fisheries Institute

3. Ad Hoc Industry Group headed by Harlon Pierce

Secretary Van Sickle explained that the increase in landings of Black Drum has prompted the department to consider interim measures as well as long term management measures. The Stock Assessment Panel, the Ad Hoc and the Technical Working Groups are developing, with ~~a lot of~~ industry input, a management plan for this fishery. The Black Drum management plan is scheduled for completion in January of 1990 and ^{it} could take up to seven months ^{from now} before any regulations ^{could} be implemented as part of the long term plan. ^{whether} The concern is ~~that~~ in the interim ~~does~~ the department need to take any action or can the department afford to wait seven months or longer to come up with the final management measures. Secretary Van Sickle explained that the department was very comfortable with the long term management plan because of the tremendous input from the industry. She stated that interim management measures should not have any bearing on the plan produced in January and could be undone immediately, ~~once the long term management plan has been approved by the Commission.~~ With the fish being over-^{severely} fished at the rate it has been during the last three years, does the department want to do something in the interim, and this is ultimately what the department will be recommending

today. Secretary Van Sickle turned the meeting over to Dr. Jerry Clark, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries.

Dr. Clark reported that the first speaker will be the Chairman of the Marine Finfish Panel, ~~who is~~ Dr. Chuck Wilson. Under the Marine Finfish Panel is the Black Drum Ad Hoc Committee and Mr. Harlon Pierce is the Chairman who will speak on the commercial fishery as it has developed and as it currently exists in the state. Following will be Mr. Mark Hilzim who will describe and discuss the recreational fishery. Dr. Richard Condrey, Chairman, Stock Assessment Group - Black Drum, will present the technical information. Dr. Clark then gave a brief non-technical description of the Black Drum. It is a rapidly growing fish and in the first year it probably reached ⁵ twelve inches, second year seventeen inches, third year twenty one inches, by the fourth twenty five inches. ^{By the} End of four years this fish will weigh about seven and a half pounds. After five years the growth of the fish slows down but it continues and the state record for Black Drum is seventy seven pounds. At age five the fish becomes mature and almost all five year old fish are spawnable fish. It remains reproductively active throughout its life so this fish makes a contribution to the spawning stock from about age five until it dies, upward of over forty years of age. The spawning stock itself is composed of these fish between the ages of five and forty years, and each year you have a spawn associated with a very large number of fish of a very great number of ages and to maintain the stock at a reproductive

~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the relationship~~ ^{age structure} rate ~~that relationship~~ is going to have to be maintained. ^{It means that you are} Going to need large numbers of fish over a great number of ages. ^{you} Cannot rely upon a single age class or even a few age classes for this fish to be reproductively successful. What ever is done is going to have to maintain the diversity of ages in the fish explained Dr. Clark. Just like red drum this fish has two parts to its life cycle. It spends the early part of its life history in the estuaries, probably up to the age of four when it begins to move offshore. There is some question about when it begins to move off shore just like in Red Drum, ^{what} what happens to the "teenagers" is an important question, an unresolved question and a question that the scientists are struggling with. Once it begins to move offshore, just like Red Drum, it shows up in the ocean in large schools, which are easily identifiable. Finally and probably one of the most important issues with respect to this fish is that it is fished at every portion of its life history commented Dr. Clark. The fish are showing up in gill nets as age zero fish in the commercial fishery, haul seine fishery on larger fish, purse seine fishery offshore and a recreational fishery of significant size (1986 recreational fishery caught the same number of fish as the commercial fishery). The fish is harvested at a very small size for recreational fishery and most of the catch probably takes place before the fish are two years old. This fish is susceptible to a fishery throughout its life cycle which creates a problem for the fish concluded Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark then introduced Dr. Chuck Wilson, Chairman of the Finfish Panel.

Dr. Wilson reported that the Finfish Panel was established by Secretary Van Sickle to recommend fishery management policies to the department and to develop fishery management plans to recommend to the department for implementation on various fish species. A technical working group was assembled to formulate species profiles of priorities species. The two groups work together to develop management recommendations for individual species. The technical working group on Black Drum has been meeting for the past year and has gathered all the available scientific and landings data on the fish. The information has been reviewed several times by the stock assessment group in several committee meetings, both alone and jointly with the Black Drum technical working group. The two groups are working towards a January 1, 1990, deadline that was established by the department to develop a management plan and looking forward to presenting the result in late December concluded Dr. Wilson.

Mr. Harlon Pierce, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Advisory Committee, addressed the Commission. This committee has as its members ^{commercial} Black Drum fishermen, seafood dealers and processors. The committee reports directly to the Saltwater Finfish Advisory Panel. Mr. Pierce updated the Commission on the progress of the Black Drum Management Plan. The advisory committee met for the first time on August 31, 1989, in Baton Rouge. A chairman and secretary were elected and a letter was drafted to Secretary Van Sickle at the

first meeting. A second meeting was held one week later and a draft report was prepared by the committee (copies of letter and report were given to the Commissioners). The letter basically asked Secretary Van Sickle to allow the committee to do their job and explained how important this was to the industry that they get involved and help in the management process. At the second meeting on September 6, 1989, in Baton Rouge the work began with the draft report being prepared. Mr. Pierce explained the contents of the draft report to the Commission. The committee is waiting on the technical data results from the scientific group so they can act upon it and have something in place for January 1, 1990. The committee also feels strongly that they must contribute to the plan and if there are no short term measures necessary, as Mr. Pierce is being told by the scientific committee, the committee should have the time to do their job. Mr. Pierce commented that the Black Drum Advisory Committee is aware that adjustments will have to be made in this fishery. The committee is fully prepared to act with all speed necessary to make the adjustments and recommends that the Commission does not propose any short term stop gap measures before January 1, 1990, which would hinder the ability of the committee to develop a plan. Based on the committee's observations, in the field, the Black Drum fishery is not on the verge of collapse and can wait for a plan to develop advised Mr. Pierce. This is the first fishery management plan developed by the new management system which involves user groups and scientists and if the Commission were to enact any measures without going through the

formal advisory panel and committee system the ability of the Black Drum Advisory Committee to act could be seriously damaged. The fishermen and processors who would see this would not support the system created by Secretary Van Sickle. A closure or any size restrictions for the last three months of this would year would not significantly help the fishery but would send a clear message that the advisory panel committee system is worthless. The committee is pleased that scientific management and user group involvement are coming into the fishery and realize that sacrifices will have to be made. The committee hopes that scientists and user group can cooperate with each other for the benefit of the resource concluded Mr. Pierce.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the committee was waiting on the technical committee to give some recommendations.

Mr. Pierce answered that the committee is waiting on the biological information.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the committee was aware that the landings on the Black Drum have gone up like eighteen fold in the last few years.

Mr. Pierce answered that the committee was aware that this year the landing data was down and the fishery is probably about half of where it was last year and that the data this year,

according to the scientists, the landings this year shown that there is not a problem in the short term. There is time to do some things and with the groups that are in place Mr. Pierce knows that a plan can be formulated by January 1, 1990. If there are any stop gap measures there will be problems because the industry will take this as a slap in the face advised Mr. Pierce.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the NMFS landing charts (1962-88) show a tremendous increase in Black Drum and realizes that the committee needs scientific data for the plan but the Commission is charged to protect, conserve and replenish the resource and it is the duty of the Commission to impose temporary measures if needed.

Mr. Pierce responded that the committee was told by the scientific community that as of June of this year the catch was 2.6 million pounds and because the catch rate was down this year that no short term measures should be necessary to hinder the development of this plan.

Mr. Jenkins asked about the price of the fish (twenty cents a pound), and makeup of the committee (no recreational people).

Secretary Van Sickle pointed out that whatever is done short term does not have any bearing on the long term work that is being done by the fishermen, LSU, etc. In addition to the comments from the Stock Assessment Panel this fishery is traditionally active in

the spring, dies down during the summer, kicks back up in the fall and if it increases again in the fall Secretary Van Sickle's alternative would be to take emergency action to shut the fishery down. This is the only emergency action that the Secretary has the authority to do but the Commission has the authority to impose size limits, quotas, or a closure on a emergency basis.

Concluding Mr. Pierce stated that the committee is only asking for the time to do their job and work with the department.

Dr. Clark commented that he has been involved in fishery management plans for several years and in the entire time period he has never been involved in a process where an attempt has been made from day one to bring everyone into the process and make them a part of what comes out it. Dr. Clark supports this completely and believes this structure is the best way to do it.

Mr. Mark Hilzim addressed the Commission on the recreational fishery of the Black Drum. This is a very considerable recreational fishery and there was a time, not in the to distant past, where this fishery was, probably in total landing, more of a recreational fishery than a commercial fishery. Mr. Hilzim commented that to say anything more on this fishery, at this point, would be conjecture on his part but in the process of trying to pull together some information, as the other committees are doing, and provide it to the Commission in the very near future so that

the Commission will be able to use it in the efforts to put together a management plan that not only helps the Black Drum industry but also helps the recreational industry. The GCCA

has been monitoring all the indicators, casually, for about eighteen months and see a lot of danger signals going off (rapid increase in harvest, biological characteristics, strong market demand, great improvement in catching technology being made every year). Mr. Hilzim hopes that the Commission will start getting something done right now to make sure that this fishery does not get in the same situation that the Red Fish fishery did.

Dr. Richard Condrey presented the Stock Assessment materials to the Commission. Dr. Condrey is Chairman of the Stock Assessment Subcommittee of the Finfish Panel. Dr. Condrey's focus has been on the long run and long term of this species. There are records of fish that are forty two years old. This is a type of stock that can provide the state with a strong fishery, and provide the individual fishermen with a relatively high rate of catch per unit of effort under equilibrium conditions. The Black Drum is not the kind of species that can be fished heavily but can only be fished lightly especially if it is fished across all age classes. Mr. Condrey provided the Commissioners with a copy of a memorandum that he had written to the members of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups which is a consensus of what is known and not known about Black Drum and what the primary conservation standard is in

this species. A preliminary draft of the Stock Assessment Report was put together by Mr. Condrey on Friday and a copy was given to Dr. Clark. Dr. Condrey gave the Commission a synopsis of the accomplishments and conclusions of the August 31, 1989 meeting of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups. This is not a stock which can endure heavy fishing pressure and this species requires cooperative management by the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council because its life history features foster migration through several jurisdictions. Dr. Condrey then presented overheads showing fish age and growth on Black Drum and explanation of each. Concluding Mr. Condrey at this point there are indications that fishing mortality on the juvenile fish may be very high and conflicting and unconfirmed reports of what fishing mortality is on the adult fish. This is an arena of active scientific investigations stated Dr. Condrey.

Dr. Jerry Clark then answered a question that Mr. Pierce had asked about what happened at the last stock assessment meeting. There were three important results of the meeting and the first and most important one, in Dr. Clark's opinion, is that there was a unanimous opinion that the stock is over fished. The second important set of discussions at the meeting was what in the long run should be done about this. The goal is to maintain the spawning stock in the future. The third and important thing was a discussion about whether to let the process go as is and let the plan due January 1, 1990 get in place, go through the regulatory

amendment and in six months have something in place on a permanent basis or whether or not to do an interim measure and let that also continue and then replace it in a permanent basis. As Dr. Clark recalls it the discussion was the following: "On the basis of the data in hand at that day and on the basis of the conclusions there was no interim measure recommended other than to continue the process, to continue getting data, continue to analyze what we are doing and if something happened or if something untold happened or landings were higher than we thought they were, were going to be higher than we thought they were, we were monitoring it, and something happened that the group wanted to be reassembled and then make a further determination at that point". This was Dr. Clark's recollection of the meeting but he did point out that there was one abstention to this and it was himself because his background tells him that if a group of scientists reached the unanimous conclusion that a fishery is over fished and probably has been over fished for four or five years and also reaches the conclusion that it is a very delicate fishery then five years from now, or ten years from now we may pay back in the lack of fish for the actions that are taken and he does not want to participate in this. He does not choose to participate in a process that concludes unanimously by a group of scientists that a stock is over fished and it will be continued for six or seven months.

Chairman Hines commented that the Commission does have the opportunity in January to take emergency action and put a long

range plan into effect on an emergency basis and then proceed with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Dr. Clark pointed out that Dr. Hines was absolutely right that the Commission and Secretary Van Sickle have emergency authority but they may not have emergency authority over the kinds of things that the group might recommend.

Mr. Hilzim stated that several years ago a resolution that included drum, speckled and sheepshead giving the management standard as a 20% standing stock biomass target which was the target for redfish and it was not discussed in the new conservation standard how that relates or will be achieving that goal or higher goal or is that goal now an irrelevant way of looking at things.

Mr. Condrey answered the reason the conservation standard is preambled by a statement that is being examined is to make sure that it is conservative enough.

Dr. Clark informed the Commission of the alternatives that are facing the Commission. The Commission has a lot of choices and according to law the emergency authority is limited, both the Commission and Secretary, and each has separate emergency authority. The Secretary is only limited to closure. The authority of the Commission is somewhat broader. The Commission can close the fishery, set a season which amounts to a closure, set

size limits or do a combination of these. This is the only authority that the Secretary and Commission has on an emergency basis. The only other thing that the Commission might want to speculate about and that is being sensitive to some of the comments that were stated today to make people part of the process and they can be made part of the emergency process also. It is possible that the Stock Assessment group could be reassembled and go after the information one more time, pass the information off to the Marine Finfish Panel and to the Black Drum Ad Hoc Committee then come back to the Commission as soon as possible with another emergency recommendation suggested Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark recommended not to close the fishery and believes that a closure almost at any point in time is a management failure. Sometime a closure is all that can be done but does not believe Louisiana is in that situation right now. Dr. Clark cannot recommend no action for the reasons he has given already. Given the restrictions that the Legislature has put upon the Commission Dr. Clark thinks the only one that makes sense is try to keep the fishery open and on the basis of some of the testimony given today to impose a size limit to try and reduce the harvest and slow it down over the next six months and when the final plan is in place damage will not have been done. Dr. Clark recommended that for both the recreational and the commercial fishery that a sixteen to twenty four inch slot limit be imposed on an emergency basis and that only fish in that size range be maintained. This will reduce, in the short run, the commercial harvest by something less than fifty percent. It will

reduce the recreational harvest by something in excess of fifty percent because the target range for recreational fish is in that small size limit. As soon as a plan is retrieved from the process that has been set up Dr. Clark recommends removing his recommendation as soon as possible.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that one of the things that was happening as far as this years landings, they were suppose to be less than last year and this was one of the reason that it appeared that no interim action was needed, was based on poundage of fish (2.6 million pounds) which was a little less in poundage. The information has been received on the numbers of fish harvested and the numbers harvested was roughly half of what it was the year before at this point, right on track with 1988 landings. A closure or quota could be imminent and the department is trying to avoid shutting the fishery down. This is the basis for the recommendation. The numbers of fish are right on track, poundage, targeting puppy drum, and the statistics are now showing that.

Dr. Hines called for comments from the people attending the meeting. The following addressed the Commission.

Harry Brown, Cameron, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Brown believes that more information is needed concerning the biological statistics on the fish. He would appreciate the Commission to take into consideration a season on the fishery and believes if this

would have been done on the redfish Louisiana would have been a lot better off.

Mitch Chevalier, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Chevalier thinks the Commission should leave it up to the Black Drum Task Force to give opinions in the matter. Mr. Chevalier is a alternate of the Limited Entry Task Force.

Steven Dargis, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Dargis is a member of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Committee. He was wondering why no one on the ad hoc committee was contacted about putting a size limit on the fish and it seems like all the work the committees have done is fruitless. Secretary Van Sickle assured him that it won't in six months.

Peter Gerica, President Lake Pontchartrain Fish Association, Member of the Finfish Task Force and Concerned Shrimpers - Mr. Gerica stated that there are things on paper that do not necessarily figure out in the wild and thinks the committees should look more into the wild aspect. He questioned how a person is suppose to fish a fish between fourteen and twenty somewhat inches and if this is what is going to happen you just might as well close the fishery down.

Craig B. Borges, Metairie, LA, Seafood Wholesaler Dealer Processor - Mr. Borges believes that if you are to going to catch

the fine line between not reproducing to everything reproducing then the fishery will run into problems down the road. He is in favor of a long term management plan but do no do anything until January.

Stanley D. Rando, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Rando asked the Commission not to take any harsh action and shut the fishery down right now. He asked that the Finfish board complete their job and make recommendations. Mr. Rando was also appointed to the Limited Entry Board and he feels like he would be wasting his time if the Commission killed the Finfish Task board.

Donald Lirette, Dulac, LA, Member of Shrimp Task Force, Member of The Gulf of Mexico Program (EPA Program) - Mr. Lirette believes the recreational and commercial conflict is the issue and he does not support Dr. Clark's recommendation. If this type of recommendation comes down from the Wildlife and Fisheries Mr. Lirette does not care to be on the Shrimp Management Task Force if his time is going to be undermined by the department. The biologists who are putting out the data have got to look at it in a non-political way and do what is good for the species and the fishermen of Louisiana are tired of being stepped on concluded Mr. Lirette.

Henry Truelove, Charenton, LA, Commercial Fisherman and Processor - Mr. Truelove asked Secretary Van Sickle and Mr.

Jenkins if they thought the marine finfish panels will work. Both answered yes, but Mr. Jenkins does not include the action that is being considered today as part of what needs to be done on a short term basis. Mr. Truelove asked if the federally caught fish in the federal waters are recorded in the NMFS landings and if the inshore is closed and has a slot limit will that size limit apply also in federal waters. Secretary Van Sickle answered to all fish that are landed in Louisiana. Mr. Truelove asked the Commission to give the panels two weeks to thirty days to look at all the scientific data and come back to the Commission and report before action is taken. Mr. Truelove believes the panels will work and the people that serve on the panels believe it also and if given the opportunity he believes Louisiana will see a new direction in fisheries.

Lawrence Stipelcovich, Empire, LA, Vice President Plaquemine Parish Commercial Fishermen, Delta Fisheries, Advisory Board on Red Fish Panel Gulf Council, etc. - Mr. Stipelcovich has been fishing for forty years. He stated that there is more redfish than Drum right now and it cannot be fished. The way of collecting data has got to change to be able to develop fisheries where it can work. Mr. Stipelcovich believe the hook and line method to catch fish is the best for data collection and there is no way it can be done with purse seine. He knows there is a problem with the drum fishery but thinks in the future everybody should get together and work together (biologists, commercial and recreational) and get

data in federal waters. Mr. Stipelcovich also thinks redfish should be opened to all commercial fishermen this year.

Mr. Bollie Lajantu, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr Lajantu is against any shutdown or slot limits. He believes the department should find out what is out there first before they close anything. Has seen more young fish in the last three year than six year before that.

Terry LeBlanc, Chauvin, LA, President of Terrebonne Fishermen's Association - Mr. LeBlanc does not believe the department is doing the right thing with the redfish, Black Drum and commercial fishermen. This is nothing but a political arena and is putting the fishermen out of business. The fishermen will lose their fishery if they are forced to work the sixteen to twenty-four inch fish.

Cliff Glockner, Jr., Lacombe, LA, Commercial Fishermen - Mr. Glockner is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee and thought they had until January to make a decision. He feels that the recommendations that the committees make will not matter and that the department will just pass on over them and do what they want. Mr. Glockner is against a closure. The fish are on their way out now and he believes a closure would hurt the commercial fishermen more than it would help them.

Tony Giambelluca, Covington, LA, Finfish Processor and Distributor of both domestic and import - Mr. Giambelluca is concerned that a complete closure of the fishery across the board of the various age groups would have detrimental affect for many fishermen across the state. He urged Secretary Van Sickle and the committee to consider the long term positive advantages for the Black Drum themselves, the fishery, the stock in not closing the fishery for a brief three month period and to consider the short term disadvantages of closing the industry and it effects it will have on the fishermen of the state. If the fishery does need interim action, Mr. Giambelluca strongly urged the committee not to consider a size slot of sixteen to twenty four inches becaise harvesting the fish would be an impossible task to do without killing thousands of pounds of fish. Mr. Giambelluca strongly urges for a minimum size to be caught. He suggested that the committee limit the fish from a certain point on downward and not an in between size.

Earnest Shultz, Lafitte, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. hultz has been fishing since he was fifteen and believes it has gotten to the point where a person cannot make it anymore. Laws have beem passed on fisheries and the experts do not really know what is out there. No one really knows the data commented Mr. Shultz.

Jane Black, Golden Meadow, LA - Ms. Black asked that industry decide how to share up quota. It is very difficult to accept a

window which protects two of the three user groups thus leaving the seine user group out and they will not be able to fish at all. The recreational and small boat people are covered and asked that the recreational people, people who target the smaller drums and people who target bull drums sit down and in the next thirty days come up with a plan to share up the quota.

Secretary Van Sickle commented that that was one of the alternatives that Dr. Clark presented was to provide for public input over the next couple of weeks.

Peter Sinor, River Ridge, LA, Port Sampler for New Orleans Area - Mr. Sinor believes that any type of restrictions imposed upon the drum fishery would be a gross injustice to the fishermen.

Mark Boudreaux, Sea Vision - Mr. Boudreaux feels that it was not a unanimous decision among the biologists on what is being proposed. The shrinking trend, as far as the catch being smaller is due to a decrease demand, to some extend , for blacken anything nationally he explained. Mr. Boudreaux's whole job is to take products from Louisiana and distribute them nationally amd to sell Louisiana. Mr. Boudreaux would like to see a program that allows Louisiana fisheries to be sold and not other countries. The proposed quota is useless to commercial fishermen and in the marketing standpoint you cannot expect people to sit around and say they will wait until Louisiana comes up with a program then come

back and buy the product. It does not work this way and Louisiana's reputation as far as managing their resources, at best, is pretty sloppy stated Mr. Boudreaux. He believes that the data that Mr. Condrey presented lends itself to something more creative than just shutting the fishery down and January 1 something will be done. Responsibility is due not only to the people attending meeting, but to the people who are employed by the people at the meeting and the fishermen.

Wes Alford, Commercial Fisherman, Member of the Finfish Task Force, Ad Hoc Black Drum Committee - Mr. Alford needs the Commission to prove to him that he is a part of a viable management scheme that can work with his fellow commercial fishermen, the department and the biologists and prove to him that he is not a member of some political smoke screen. He feels insulted, just like the rest of his fellow commercial fishermen, that they were not consulted and brought into this management plan and that the fishery may be shut down.

Chairman Hines asked the people who represented the different groups, (Marine Finfish Panel, Black Drum Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, Recreational group, etc.,) if they thought that in the next couple of weeks they could get together and make a recommendations to the Commission on an interim plan, not withstanding the long range management plan. The department feels like something has got to be done in a short period of time and

certainly respects and welcomes the input from the different groups before the final decision is made and before the October meeting make a interim recommendation to the Commission to consider and present it to them at that time or before that time. The groups agreed to this. Mr. Pol commented that since the recreational fishermen catch half of the drum he believes that the recommendation should be a joint recommendation between the recreational group and the panel. Secretary Van Sickle stated that if a consensus can not be reached the recommendations from the department are going to stand pat. If input can not be obtained from the commercial fishermen that would accomplish the goals and help the fishery then all there is is what the department has. Secretary Van Sickle asked the fishermen for their assistance in the interim so that the fishery will not be destroyed any further. If good input is not obtained or can not get a consensus or some feel for what might make it better than the department is back to square one. Secretary Van Sickle does not want to put off this decision any further than October.

Mr. Jenkins moved that Dr. Clark, Wildlife and Fisheries and et. al. work with the appropriate interested groups to bring a recommendation to the Commission at its next regular meeting in October and at that time it is the intention of the Commission to make a decision on the interim Black Drum situation. (Will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.) Seconded by Mr. McCall.

Chairman Hines commented that the Commission realizes there is a problem and realizes there are many solutions to this problem. Not all of them are agreeable to everybody but would think as a Commission and as a department it behooves them to try to come up with the most workable plan that will affect each individual in the least adverse manner. Certainly going to do the very best to affect everybody as little as possible economically. Still are charged with the number one priority of protecting the resource and this should be the main objective. Chairman Hines thanked the groups for their input and all the time that they have put on the different panels. That time has not been in vain and Dr. Hines asked that they continue to meet and give input and information so that better decisions can be made.

Mr. Pol added that he was in favor of what Dr. Hines said and wants to help everybody. The Commissioners do not get paid for doing this and they are doing what they think is right for the State of Louisiana and not for any one particular individual group.

Chairman Hines called for vote on motion. Passed unanimously. Chairman Hines called for any further business on Black Drum, there not being any he called for motion to adjourn. Mr. Jenkins made motion to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Pol. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Direct

*Please
re-type and
then ask
J. Clark to
review.*

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Coastal Fisheries Institute

3. Ad Hoc Industry Group headed by Harlon Pierce



Secretary Van Sickle explained that ^{of} the increase in landings on the Black Drum has prompted the department to consider ~~both~~ interim measures ^{as well as} and long term management measures. The Stock Assessment Panel, the Ad Hoc and the Technical Working Groups are developing, with a lot of industry input, a management plan for this fishery. The ^{Black Drum} management plan ~~for this fishery~~ ^{it could} is scheduled for completion in January of 1990 and will take ^{up to} approximately seven months ~~afterwards~~ before any regulations can be implemented ^{to protect the Black Drum}. The concern is that in the interim ^{as part of the long-term plan.} does the department need to take any ~~interim~~ action or can the department afford to wait seven months or longer to come up with the final management measures. ~~The panel will be looking at short term management options and long term management options.~~ Secretary Van Sickle explained that the department was very comfortable with the long term management plan because of the tremendous input from the industry. ^{She stated that interim management} ~~but what ever happens in the~~ ^{measures} ~~short term~~ ^{should} ~~will~~ not have any bearing ^{on the plan produced in January} and could be undone immediately once the long term management plan has been approved by the Commission. With the fish being over-fished at the rate it ^{been} has during the last three years does the department want to do something in the interim and this is ultimately what the department

will be recommending today. Secretary Van Sickle turned the meeting over to Dr. Jerry Clark, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries.

Dr. Clark reported that the first speaker will be the Chairman of the Marine Finfish Panel who is Mr. Chuck Wilson. Under the Marine Finfish Panel is the Black Drum Ad Hoc Committee and Mr. Harlon Pierce is the Chairman who will speak on the commercial fishery as it has developed and as it currently exists in the state. Following will be Mr. Mark Hilzim who will describe and discuss the recreational fishery. Mr. Richard Condrey, Chairman, Stock Assessment Group - Black Drum, will present the technical information. Dr. Clark then gave a brief non-technical description of the Black Drum. ^{It is} ~~A~~ rapidly growing fish and in the first year it probably reached twelve inches, second year seventeen inches, third year twenty one inches, by the fourth twenty five inches. End of four years this fish will weigh~~s~~ about seven and a half pounds. After five years the growth of the fish slows down but it continues and the state record for Black Drum is seventy-seven pounds. At age five the fish becomes mature and almost all five year old fish are spawnable fish. ^{It} ~~A~~ Remains reproductively active throughout its life so this fish makes a contribution to the spawning stock from about age five until it dies, upward of over forty years of age. The spawning stock itself is composed of these fish between the ages of five and forty years, and each year you have a spawn associated with a very large number of fish of a very great number of ages and to maintain the stock at a reproductive rate that relationship is going to have to be maintained. Going

to need large numbers of fish over a great number of ages. Cannot rely upon a single age class or even a few age classes for this fish to be reproductively successful. What ever is done is going to have to maintain the diversity of ages in the fish explained Dr. Clark. Just like red drum this fish has two parts to its life cycle. It spends the early part of its life history in the estuaries, probably up to the age of four when it begins to move offshore. There is some question about when it begins to move off shore just like in Red Drum, what happens to the "teenagers" is an important question, an unresolved question and a question that the scientists are struggling with. Once it begins to move offshore, just like Red Drum, it shows up in the ocean in large schools, which are easily identifiable. Finally and probably one of the most important issues with respect to this fish is that it is fished at every portion of its life history commented Dr. Clark. The fish are showing up in gill nets as age zero fish in the commercial fishery, haul seine fishery on larger fish, purse seine fishery offshore and a recreational fishery of significant size (1986 recreational fishery caught the same number of fish as the commercial fishery). The fish is harvested at a very small size for recreational fishery and most of the catch probably takes place before the fish are two years old. This fish is susceptible to a fishery throughout its life cycle which creates a problem for the fish concluded Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark then introduced Mr. Chuck Wilson, Chairman of the Finfish Panel.

What about
Richard
Conder's presentation -
We need a few
sentences
about his presentation.
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 Mr. Wilson reported that the Finfish Panel was established by Secretary Van Sickle to recommend fishery management policies to the department and to develop fishery management plans to recommend to the department for implementation on various fish species. A technical working group was assembled to formulate species profiles of priorities species. The two groups work together to develop management recommendations for individual species. The technical working group on Black Drum has been meeting for the past year and has gathered all the available scientific and landings data on the fish. The information has been reviewed several times by the stock assessment group in several committee meetings, both alone and jointly with the Black Drum technical working group. The two groups are working towards a January 1, 1990, deadline that was established by the department to develop a management plan and looking forward to presenting the result in late December concluded  Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Harlon Pierce, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Advisory Committee, addressed the Commission. This committee has as its members Black Drum fishermen, seafood dealers and processors. The committee reports directly to the Saltwater Finfish Advisory Panel. Mr. Pierce updated the Commission on the progress of the Black Drum Management Plan. The advisory committee met for the first time on August 31, 1989, in Baton Rouge. A chairman and secretary were elected and a letter was drafted to Secretary Van Sickle at the first meeting. A second meeting was held one week later and a draft report was prepared by the committee (copies of letter and

report were given to the Commissioners). The letter basically asked Secretary Van Sickle to allow the committee to do their job and explained how important this was to the industry that they get involved and help in the management process. At the second meeting on September 6, 1989, in Baton Rouge the work began with the draft report being prepared. Mr. Pierce explained the contents of the draft report to the Commission. The committee is waiting on the technical data results from the scientific group so they can act upon it and have something in place for January 1, 1990. The committee also feels strongly that they must contribute to the plan and if there are no short term measures necessary, as Mr. Pierce is being told by the scientific committee, the committee should have the time to do their job. Mr. Pierce commented that the Black Drum Advisory Committee is aware that adjustments will have to be made in this fishery. The committee is fully prepared to act with all speed necessary to make the adjustments and recommends that the Commission does not propose any short term stop gap measures before January 1, 1990, which would hinder the ability of the committee to develop a plan. Based on the committee's observations, in the field, the Black Drum fishery is not on the verge of collapse and can wait for a plan to develop advised Mr. Pierce. This is the first fishery management plan developed by the new management system which involves user groups and scientists and if the Commission ^{will} ~~was~~ to enact any measures without going through the formal advisory panel and committee system the ability of the Black Drum Advisory Committee to act could be seriously damaged. The fishermen and processors who would see this would not support the

system created by Secretary Van Sickle. A closure or any size restrictions for the last three months of this would year would not significantly help the fishery but would send a clear message that the advisory panel committee system is worthless. The committee is pleased that scientific management and user group involvement are coming into the fishery and realize that sacrifices will have to be made. The committee hopes that scientists and user group can cooperate with each other for the benefit of the resource concluded Mr. Pierce.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the committee was waiting on the technical committee to give some recommendations.

Mr. Pierce answered that the committee is waiting on the biological information.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the committee was aware that the landings on the Black Drum have gone up like eighteen fold in the last few years.

Mr. Pierce answered that the committee was aware that this year the landing data was down and the fishery is probably about half of where it was last year and that the data this year, according to the scientists, the landings this year shown that there is not a problem in the short term. There is time to do some things and with the groups that are in place Mr. Pierce knows that a plan can be formulated by January 1, 1990. If there are any stop

gap measures there will be problems because the industry will take this as a slap in the face advised Mr. Pierce.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the NMFS landing charts (1962-88) show a tremendous increase in Black Drum and realizes that the committee needs scientific data for the plan but the Commission is charged to protect, conserve and replenish the resource and it is the duty of the Commission to impose temporary measures if needed.

Mr. Pierce responded that the committee was told by the scientific community that as of June of this year the catch was 2.6 million pounds and because the catch rate was down this year that no short term measures should be necessary to hinder the development of this plan.

Mr. Jenkins asked about the price of the fish (twenty cents a pound), and makeup of the committee (no recreational people).

Secretary Van Sickle pointed out that whatever is done short term does not have any bearing on the long term work that is being done by the fishermen, LSU, etc. In addition to the comments from the Stock Assessment Panel this fishery is traditionally ^{active} ~~documented~~ in the spring, dies down during the summer, kicks back up in the fall and if it ^{increases again} ~~kicks back up~~, in the fall Secretary Van Sickle's alternative would be to take emergency action to shut the fishery down. This is the only emergency action that the Secretary has the

authority to do but the Commission has the authority to impose size limits, quotas, or a closure on a emergency basis.

Concluding Mr. Pierce stated that the committee is only asking for the time to do their job and work with the department.

Dr. Clark commented that he has been involved in fishery management plans for several years and in the entire time period he has never been involved in a process where an attempt has been made from day one to bring everyone into the process and make them a part of what comes out it. Dr. Clark supports this completely and believes this structure is the best way to do it.

Mr. Mark Hilzim addressed the Commission on the recreational fishery of the Black Drum. This is a very considerable recreational fishery and there was a time, not to distant past, where this fishery was, probably in total landing, more of a recreational fishery than a commercial fishery. Mr. Hilzim commented that to say anything more on this fishery, at this point, would be conjecture on his part but in the process of trying to pull together some information, as the other committees are doing, and provide it to the Commission in the very near future so that the Commission will be able to use it in the efforts to put together a management plan that not only help the Black Drum industry but also helps the recreational industry. The _____ has been monitoring all the indicators, casually, for about eighteen months and see a lot of danger signals going off (rapid

increase in harvest, biological characteristics, strong market demand, great improvement in catching technology being made every year). Mr. Hilzim hopes that the Commission will start getting something done right now to make sure that this fishery does not get in the same situation that the Red Fish fishery did.

Mr. Richard Condrey presented the Stock Assessment materials to the Commission. Mr. Condrey is Chairman of the Stock Assessment Subcommittee of the Finfish Panel. Mr. Condrey's focus has been on the long run and long term of this species. There are records of fish that are forty two years old. This is a type of stock that can provide the state with a strong fishery, and provide the individual fishermen with a relatively high rate of catch per unit of effort under equilibrium conditions. The Black Drum is not the kind of species that can be fished heavily but can only be fished lightly especially if it is fished across all age classes. Mr. Condrey provided the Commissioners with a copy of a memorandum that he had written to the members of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups which is a consensus of what is known and not known about Black Drum and what the primary conservation standard is in this species. A preliminary draft of the Stock Assessment Report was put together by Mr. Condrey on Friday and a copy was given to Dr. Clark. Mr. Condrey gave the Commission a synopsis of the accomplishments and conclusions of the August 31, 1989 meeting of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups. This is not a stock which can endure heavy fishing pressure and this species requires cooperative management by the Gulf states and the Gulf of

Mexico Fishery Management Council because its life history features foster migration through several jurisdictions. Mr. Condrey then presented overheads showing fish age and growth on Black Drum and explanation of each. Concluding Mr. Condrey at this point there are indications that fishing mortality on the juvenile fish may be very high and conflicting and unconfirmed reports of what fishing mortality is on the adult fish. This is an arena of active scientific investigations stated Mr. Condrey.

Dr. Jerry Clark then answered a question that Mr. Pierce had asked about what happened at the last stock assessment meeting. There were three important results of the meeting and the first and most important one, in Dr. Clark's opinion, is that there was a unanimous opinion that the stock is over fished. The second important set of discussions at the meeting was what in the long run should be done about this. The goal is to maintain the spawning stock in the future. The third and important thing was a discussion about whether to let the process go as is and let the plan due January 1, 1990 get in place, go through the regulatory amendment and in six months have something in place on a permanent basis or whether or not to do an interim measure and let that also continue and then replace it in a permanent basis. As Dr. Clark recalls it the discussion was the following: "On the basis of the data in hand at that day and on the basis of the conclusions there was no interim measure recommended other than to continue the process, to continue getting data, continue to analyze what we are doing and if something happened or if something ^{untold!} untoward happened

or landings were higher than we thought they were, were going to be higher than we thought they were, we were monitoring it, and something happened that the group wanted to be reassembled and then make a further determination at that point". This was Dr. Clark's recollection of the meeting but he did point out that there was one abstention to this and it was himself because his background tells him that if a group of scientists reached the unanimous conclusion that a fishery is over fished and probably has been over fished for four or five years and also reaches the conclusion that it is a very delicate fishery then five years from now, or ten years from now we may pay back in the lack of fish for the actions that are taken and he does not want to participate in this. He does not choose to participate in a process that concludes unanimously by a group of scientists that a stock is over fished and it will be continued for six or seven months.

Chairman Hines commented that the Commission does have the opportunity in January to take emergency action and put a long range plan into effect on an emergency ^{basis} bases- and then proceed with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Dr. Clark pointed out that Dr. Hines was absolutely right that the Commission and Secretary Van Sickle have emergency authority but they may not have emergency authority over the kinds of things that the group might recommend.

Mr. Hilzim stated that several years ago a resolution that included drum, speckled and sheephead giving the management standard as a 20% standing stock biomass target which was the target for red fish and it was not discussed in the new conservation standard how that relates or will be achieving that goal or higher goal or is that goal now an irrelevant way of looking at things.

Mr. Condrey answered the reason the conservation standard is preambled by a statement that is being examined is to make sure that it is conservative enough.

Dr. Clark informed the Commission of the alternatives that are facing the Commission. The Commission has a lot of choices and according to law the emergency authority is limited, both the Commission and Secretary, and each has separate emergency authority. The Secretary is only limited to closure. The authority of the Commission is somewhat broader. The Commission can close the fishery, set a season which amounts to a closure, set size limits or do a combination of these. This is the only authority that the Secretary and Commission has on an emergency basis. The only other thing that the Commission might want to speculate about and that is being sensitive to some of the comments that were stated today to make people part of the process and they can be made part of the emergency process also. It is possible that the Stock Assessment group could be reassembled and go after the information one more time, pass the information off to the

Marine Finfish Panel and to the Black Drum Ad Hoc Committee then come back to the Commission as soon as possible with another emergency recommendation suggested Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark recommended not to close the fishery and believes that a closure almost at any point in time is a management failure. Sometime a closure is all that can be done but does not believe Louisiana is in that situation right now. Dr. Clark cannot recommend no action for the reasons he has given already. Given the restrictions that the Legislature has put upon the Commission Dr. Clark thinks the only one that makes sense is try to keep the fishery open and on the basis of some of the testimony given today to impose a size limit to try and reduce the harvest and slow it down over the next six months and when the final plan is in place damage will not have been done. Dr. Clark recommended that for both the recreational and the commercial fishery that a sixteen to twenty four inch slot limit be imposed on an emergency basis and that only fish in that size range be maintained. This will reduce, in the short run, the commercial harvest by something less than fifty percent. It will reduce the recreational harvest by something in excess of fifty percent because the target range for recreational fish is in that small size limit. As soon as a plan is retrieved from the process that has been set up Dr. Clark recommends removing his recommendation as soon as possible.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that one of the things that was happening as far as this years landings, they were suppose to be less than last year and this was one of the reason that it appeared

that no interim action was needed, was based on poundage of fish (2.6 million pounds) which was a little less in poundage. The information has been received on the numbers of fish harvested and the numbers harvested was roughly half of what it was the year before at this point, right on track with 1988 landings. A closure or quota could be imminent and the department is trying to avoid shutting the fishery down. This is the basis for the recommendation. The numbers of fish are right on track, poundage, targeting puppy drum, and the statistics are now showing that.

Dr. Hines called for comments from the people attending the meeting. The following addressed the Commission.

Harry Brown, Cameron, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Believes some more information is needed concerning the biological statistics on the fish. Would appreciate the Commission to take in consideration a season on the fishery and believes if this would have been done on the ^{redfish} ~~Red-Fish~~ Louisiana would have been a lot better off.

Mitch Chevalier, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Thinks the Commission should leave it up to the Black Drum Task Force to give opinion in the matter. Mr. Chevalier is a alternate of the Limited Entry Task Force.

Steven Dargis, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Mr. Dargis is a member of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Committee. Wondering why no one on the ad hoc committee was contacted about putting a size

limit on fish. ~~Seems like~~ [^] all the work the committees have done seems fruitless. Secretary Van Sickle assured him that it won't in six months.

Peter Gerica, President Lake Pontchartrain Fish Association, Member of the Finfish Task Force and Concerned Shrimpers - Looking at things on paper that do not necessarily figure out in the wild and thinks the committees should look more into the wild this time. Questioning how a person is suppose to fish a fish between fourteen and twenty somewhat inches. Just as soon shut the whole fishery down.

Craig B. Borges, Metairie, LA, Seafood Wholesaler Dealer Processor - If going to catch the fine line between not reproducing to everything reproducing will run into problems down the road. In favor of a long term and nothing done right now.

Stanley D. Rando, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Asked the Commission not to take any harsh action and shut the fishery down right now. Let the Finfish board complete their job and make recommendations. Also appointed to the Limited Entry Board and feels like he would be wasting his time if the Commission killed the Finfish Task board.

Donald Lirette, Dulac, LA, Member of Shrimp Task Force, Member of The Gulf of Mexico Program (EPA Program) - The recreational and commercial conflict is the issue. Does not support Dr. Clark's

recommendation at all and if this type of recommendation comes down from the Wildlife and Fisheries he does not care to be on the Shrimp Management Task Force anymore if his time is going to be undermined by the department. Biologists who are putting out the data have got to look at it in a non-political way and do what is good for the species. Fishermen of Louisiana are tired of being stepped on.

Henry Truelove, Charenton, LA, Commercial Fisherman and Processor - Asked Secretary Van Sickle and Mr. Jenkins if they thought the marine finfish panels will work. Both answered yes, but Mr. Jenkins did not include action that is being considered today as part of what needs to be done on a short term basis. Mr. Truelove asked if the federally caught fish in the federal waters are recorded in the NMFS landings and if the inshore closes and has a slot limit will that size limit apply also in federal waters. Secretary Van Sickle answered to ^{all} fish that are landed in Louisiana. Asked the Commission to give the panels two weeks to thirty days to look at all the scientific data and come back to the Commission and report before action is taken. Mr. Truelove believes the panels will work and the people that serve on the panels believe they will work and if given the opportunity he believes Louisiana will see a new direction in fisheries.

Lawrence Stipelcovich, Empire, LA, Vice President Plaquemine Parish Commercial Fishermen, Delta Fisheries, Advisory Board on Red Fish Panel Gulf Council, etc. - Has been fishing for forty years.

Have more ^{redfish} Red-Fish than Drum and cannot fish it. Have got to change way of collecting data to develop fisheries where it can work. Have got to have hook and line to catch fish. No way it can be done with purse seine. Knows there is a problem with the drum fishery but thinks in the future everybody should get together and work together (biologists, commercial and recreational) and get data in federal waters and thinks ^{Redfish} Red-Fish should be opened to all commercial fishermen this year.

Mr. Bollie Lajantu, Metairie, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Does not want any shutdown or slot limits. Department should find out what is out there first before they close anything. Has seen more young fish in the last three years than six years before that.

Terry LeBlanc, Chauvin, LA, President of Terrebonne Fishermen's Association - Does not believe the department is doing right with the ^{Redfish} Red-Fish and Black Drum and commercial fishermen. Nothing but a political arena and putting the fishermen out of business. Working a sixteen to twenty-four inch fish the fishermen have lost their fishery.

Cliff Glockner, Jr., Lacombe, LA, Commercial Fishermen - Member of the Ad Hoc Committee and thought they had ^{until} till January to make a decision. Feel that the recommendations that the committees make will not matter and that the department will just pass on over them and do what they want. Against a closure. The

fish are on their way out now and believes a closure would hurt the commercial fishermen more than it would help them.

Tony Giambelluca, Covington, LA, Finfish Processor and Distributor of both domestic and import - Concerned that a complete closure of the fishery across the board of the various age groups would have detrimental affect for many fishermen across the state. Urged Secretary Van Sickle and committee to consider the long term positive advantages for the Black Drum themselves, the fishery, the stock, to close this fishery for a brief three month period and to consider the short term disadvantages of closing the industry will definitely have on the fishermen of the state. If the fishery does need interim action, Mr. Giambelluca strongly urged the committee not to consider a size slot of sixteen to twenty-four inches. Harvesting fish would be an impossible task to do without killing thousands of pounds of fish. Mr. Giambelluca strongly urges for a minimum size to be caught. Suggest that the committee limit the fish from a certain point on downward and not an in-between size.

Earnest Shultz, Lafitte, LA, Commercial Fisherman - Has been fishing since he was fifteen and has gotten to the point where a person cannot make it anymore. Have passed laws and do not really know what is out there. No one really knows the data.

Jane Black, Golden Meadow, LA - Ask ^{ed} that industry decide how to share up quota. Very difficult to accept a window which

protects two of the three user groups. Leaves the seine user group out, cannot fish at all. Recreational and small boat people are covered. Why cannot the recreational people, people who target the smaller drums, people who target bull drums sit down and in the next thirty days come up with a plan to share up the quota.

Secretary Van Sickle commented that that was one of the alternatives that Dr. Clark presented was to ~~have some~~ ^{provide for public} input over the next couple of weeks.

Peter Sinor, River Ridge, LA, Port Sampler for New Orleans Area - Any type of restrictions imposed upon the drum fishery would be a gross injustice to the fishermen.

Mark Boudreaux, Sea Vision - Does not seem like it was a unanimous decision among the biologists on what is being proposed. The shrinking trend, as far as the catch being smaller and part of this is due to a decrease demand, to some extend , for blacken anything nationally. Mr. Boudreaux's whole job is to take products from Louisiana and distribute nationally - sells Louisiana. Would like to see a program that allows Mr. Boudreaux to sell Louisiana and not other countries. The proposed quota is useless to commercial fishermen. In the marketing standpoint you cannot expect people to sit around and say they will wait until Louisiana come up with a program and come back and buy the product. Does not work this way. Louisiana's reputation as far as managing their resources, at best, is pretty sloppy. Believes that the data

that Mr. Condrey presented lends itself to something more creative than just shutting the fishery down and then January 1 something will be done. Has to be responsible, not only to the people attending meeting, but to the people who are employed by the people at the meeting and the fishermen.

Wes Alford, Commercial Fisherman, Member of the Finfish Task Force, Ad Hoc Black Drum Committee - Needs the Commission to prove to him that he is a part of a viable management scheme that can work with his fellow commercial fishermen, the department and the biologists. Prove to him that he is not a member of some political smoke screen. Feels insulted, just like the rest of his fellow commercial fishermen, that they were not consulted and brought into this management plan and that they are going to be shut down.

Chairman Hines asked the people who represented the different groups, (Marine Finfish Panel, Black Drum Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, Recreational group, etc.,) if they thought that in the next couple of weeks they could get together and make a recommendations to the Commission on an interim plan, not withstanding the long-range management plan. The department feels like something has got to be done in a short period of time and certainly respect and welcome the input from the different groups before the final decision is made. Before October meeting make a interim recommendation to the Commission to consider and present it to them at that time or before that time. The groups agreed to this. Mr. Pol commented that since the recreational fishermen

catch half of the drum he believes that the recommendation should be a joint recommendation between the recreational group and the panel. Secretary Van Sickle stated that if a consensus can not be reached the recommendations from the department are going to stand pat. If input can not be obtained from the commercial fishermen that would accomplish the goals and help the fishery then all there is is what the department has. Secretary Van Sickle asked the fishermen for ^{their assistance} ~~their help to make it better~~ in the interim so that the fishery will not be destroyed any further. If good input is not obtained or can not get a consensus or some feel for what might make it better than the department is back to square one. Secretary Van Sickle does not want to put off this decision any further than October.

Mr. Jenkins moved that Dr. Clark, Wildlife and Fisheries and et. al. work with the appropriate interested groups to bring a recommendation to the Commission at its next regular meeting in October and at that time it is the intention of the Commission to make a decision on the interim Black Drum situation. (Will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.) Seconded by Mr. McCall.

Chairman Hines commented that the Commission realizes there is a problem and realizes there are many solutions to this problem. Not all of them are agreeable to everybody but would think as a Commission and as a department it behooves them to try to come up with the most workable plan that will affect each individual in the

least adverse manner. Certainly going to do the very best to affect everybody as little as possible economically. Still are charged with the number one priority of protecting the resource and this should be the main objective. Chairman Hines thanked the groups for their input and all the time that they have put on the different panels. That time has not been in vain and Dr. Hines asked that they continue to meet and give input and information so that better decisions can be made.

Mr. Pol added that he was in favor of what Dr. Hines said and wants to help everybody. The Commissioners do not get paid for doing this and they are doing what they think is right for the State of Louisiana and not for any one particular individual group.

Chairman Hines called for vote on motion. Passed unanimously. Chairman Hines called for any further business on Black Drum, there not being any he called for motion to adjourn. Mr. Jenkins made motion to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Pol. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

September 8, 1989

To: Members of the Stock Assessment and Black Drum Subgroups

From: Richard Condrey, Chairman
Stock Assessment Subgroup

REC

The purpose of this memo is to review with you my understanding of the major accomplishments and conclusions of our August 31, 1989 meeting and to solicit your corrections, especially concerning our major conservation criterion.

1) We have good growth and natural mortality rates from a number of reliable studies, which agree closely.

2) We have meaningful yield-per-recruit and spawning-stock-biomass-per-recruit relationships which will continue to be constructed so that their sensitivity to variance in our parameter estimates will be evident.

3) We can simulate how the population's age structure will be impacted by various levels of fishing mortality.

4) From our examination of the ages in Dan's and John's samples it appears that the adult population of black drum contain many age classes, from 5 to at least 42 years, with the highest concentration in the ages less than 28 years. Within these ages there may well be strong variations in year class strength, which may well be described in cycles of about four years.

The species appears to have evolved to a position where the persistence of a large age-structure in the spawning biomass reduces the impact of natural variation in the abundance of individual year classes on the extent of the natural spawn. As a corollary, the probability that an individual adult will be able to replenish itself in the spawning biomass is enhanced under natural conditions by the likelihood that it will persist through many years of reproductive life.

5) We feel that the presence of many strong older age classes in the adult population is an important factor in the long-term stability of this stock and should be maintained. We have therefore adopted the following primary conservation standard and are in the process of assuring that it is conservative enough.

DRAFT

DRAFT

The Primary Conservation Standard

In the presence of any fishery, the present age structure of the adult population which is vulnerable to the purse seine fishery will not be reduced below an age of 20 years, given that the current effective upper bound is presently 27 years of age. Further, the general shape of the descending arm of the current curve will remain, despite any harvest strategy which may allow a reduction in the effective age structure from 27 to 20 years of age.

6) This is not a stock which can endure heavy fishing pressure. For example, if the stock is fished across all ages, fishing mortality cannot exceed 0.1 on an instantaneous annual basis. If the stock is fished across all ages greater than 5, then fishing mortality cannot exceed 0.2 on an annual basis. If the stock is harvested at moderate rates in ages 1 to 4, adults must likely be protected from harvest. If a single year class incurs comparatively heavy fishery mortality, all other ages will likely have to be protected from harvest.

7) This is a species which requires cooperative management by the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, because its life history features foster migration through several jurisdictions.

Please let me know if you have any corrections by September 13, as our initial draft assessment is due September 15.

September 1, 1989

Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

Dear Ms. Van Sickle,

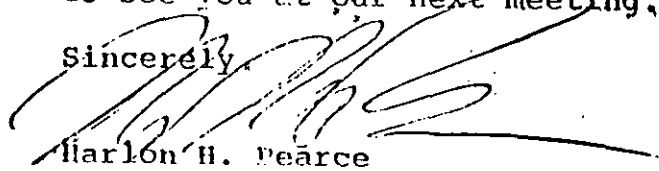
I am contacting you on behalf of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Advisory Committee of which I have been elected chairman. We as a committee would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve and express our willingness to extend scientific management to this fishery.

However, we are gravely concerned about the possibility of not being able to do our job, if overly hasty action is taken by the Department or Commission, in relation to an emergency closure. Not only are black drum not in as grave a danger as red drum, a closure put into effect without consultation with both this committee and The Saltwater Finfish Panel would result in a serious loss of goodwill on the part of the users of this resource. The committee is asking for a chance to do the job for which it was created. We would like to move as quickly as your technical people produce information to act on however we fear overreaction before we can accomplish our task.

The committee has also expressed a strong feeling that we need the technical information on this fish to be brought to the committee in layman's terms that we as fishermen and dealers can better understand than scientific jargon.

We look forward to working with you and your department and hope to see you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,


Harlon H. Pearce
Chairman, Ad Hoc Black
Drum Advisory Committee
7133 Ivy St
Metairie, LA 70003

EMM/HP

cc: Jerry Clark
John Roussel

DRAFT

REPORT

OF

AD HOC BLACK DRUM

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: HARLON PEARCE

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BLACK DRUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ON AUGUST 31, 1989 AT THE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES BUILDING LOCATED ON QUAIL DRIVE IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. THIS MEETING, CHAIRED BY JOHN ROUSSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES, GAVE US THE BASIC GUIDELINES UNDER WHICH WE WOULD WORK. THE MEETING WAS FOR ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. A CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY WAS CHOSEN AS WELL AS THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BLACK DRUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ONE WEEK LATER ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1989 AT THE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES BUILDING LOCATED ON QUAIL DRIVE IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. THIS MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY CHAIRMAN HARLON PEARCE. THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE THE DATA GATHERED DURING THIS MEETING. THIS DATA IS IN DRAFT FORM AT THE PRESENT AWAITING APPROVAL AT OUR NEXT MEETING. NO MEETING DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR OUR THIRD MEETING BECAUSE WE ARE WAITING FOR THE REPORTS OF THE BLACK DRUM SCIENTIFIC STOCK ASSESSMENT GROUP.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES GIVE THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES OF LOUISIANA A DESCRIPTION OF THE BLACK DRUM FISHERY, DEVELOPED BY INDUSTRY; WHICH HAS NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE IN THE PAST.

WE DIVIDED THE STATE INTO GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES AS FOLLOWS:

ZONE 1 - MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA (FROM VENICE SOUTHWARD)
 ZONE 2 - EAST OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO MISSISSIPPI STATE LINE
 ZONE 3 - FROM MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO ATCHAFALAYA RIVER
 ZONE 4 - FROM ATCHAFALYA RIVER TO WESTERN BOUNDRY OF WHITE LAKE
 ZONE 5 - FROM WESTERN BOUNDRY OF WHITE LAKE TO TEXAS STATE LINE

FOUR SIZE CATEGORIES WERE ESTABLISHED AS FOLLOWS:

ONE TO TWO POUND FISH (1 - 2)
 TWO TO FIVE POUND FISH (2 - 5)
 SIX TO TEN POUND FISH (6 - 10)
 FISH TEN POUNDS OR LARGER (> - 10)

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FISHERMEN IN THE BLACK DRUM FISHERY:

ST. TAMANY, TANGIPAHOA	14
EAST ORLEANS	15
BUCKTOWN	20
KENNER	3-4
LOWER ST. BERNARD	25
LOWER PLAQUEMINE	100
LAFITTE	20-25
DES ALLEMANDS	2
LEEVILLE	30
TERREBONNE	40
ST. MARY	25
IBERIA	5-6
VERMILION	10
CAMERON, CALCASIEU	40

ESTIMATED TOTAL 350

AFTER ESTABLISHING ZONES AND SIZES, WE DISCUSSED THE FISHERY IN EACH ZONE MONTH BY MONTH AS TO THE AMOUNT OF PRODUCTION OF THE RESOURCE BY SIZES AND GEAR TYPE USED.

THE BLACK DRUM FISHERY CONSISTS OF TWO DISTINCT FISHERIES. THEY ARE DIRECTED FISHERIES AT THOSE FISH TEN POUNDS AND UNDER AND THOSE FISH LARGER THAN TEN POUNDS. WE FOUND THAT SOME FISHERMEN TARGET SMALL FISH AS OTHERS TARGET LARGER FISH. THE SMALLER DRUM ARE MARKETING IN LOUISIANA AND ADJACENT STATES WHEREAS THE LARGE DRUM IS MARKETING MOST HEAVILY IN OTHER THAN GULF COAST STATES. IN SOME CASES GEAR TYPES DIFFER IN THE TWO FISHERIES. IT WAS ALSO BROUGHT UP THAT LESSOR PRODUCTION OF LARGE DRUM IS ATTRIBUTED TO A REDUCED MARKET IN SOME AREAS.

WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE AVERAGE YEAR ROUND PRICES FOR THE SIZES AND CLASSES OF FISH. THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS:

1-2	-	\$0.15 TO \$0.25 WITH SOME SMALL SCALE, LOCAL EXCEPTIONS
2-5	-	\$1.00 WITH STRONG YEAR ROUND MARKET
6-10	-	\$0.60 WITH STRONG YEAR ROUND MARKET
>-10	-	BULL DRUM ARE PURCHASED ON A PER FISH BASIS, NOT A PER POUND BASIS. THE AVERAGE ANNUAL PER FISH PRICE IS ABOUT \$2.00 AND THE AVERAGE SIZE IS 17-18 POUNDS

PRODUCTION IN THE ONE TO TWO POUND CLASS COULD BE MUCH HIGHER, HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT A DESIRABLE FISH IN THE MARKET PLACE. THERE IS AN EXCELLENT MARKET FOR ALL FISH IN THE TWO POUND AND LARGER CLASS.

THE NEXT THREE PAGES BREAKDOWN THE VOLUME OF CATCH BY SIZE, BY GEAR USED AND BY SIZE LANDED IN THE FIVE ZONES.

Good = ***
Fair = **
Poor = *

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1-2	***	***	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	***
2-5	***	***	***	***	***	**	*	*	***	***	***	***
6-10	***	***	***	***	***	**	***	**	***	***	***	***
> 10	*	*	**	*	*	*	***	***	*	*	*	*

1-2	***	***	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**	**	**
2-5	**	**	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
6-10	**	**	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	**	***	**
> 10	*	*	*	**	***	***	***	***	***	*	*	*

1-2	***	***	*	*	*	*	*	**	**	***	***	***
2-5	***	***	*	**	*	*	*	**	**	***	***	***
6-10	***	***	***	**	***	*	*	**	**	**	***	***
> 10	***	***	***	***	*	*	*	*	*	*	***	***

1-2	***	***	***	**	**	*	*	*	**	**	***	***
2-5	***	***	***	**	**	*	*	*	**	**	***	***
6-10	***	***	***	**	**	*	*	**	**	**	***	***
> 10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**	**	*	*	*

[illegible]

GEAR USED BY ZONE

Gillnet = GN
Trammelnet = TN
Seine = S
Trawl = TR

Zone 1

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

[illegible]

Zone 2

GN	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TN				*	*					*	*	*
S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TR				*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Zone 3

GN	*	*	*	*	*
TN		*	*	*	
S	*	*	*	*	
TR		*	*		

Zone 4

GN	*	*	*	*	*
TN	*	*	*	*	*
S	*	*	*	*	*
TR					

Zone 5

GN	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TN	*	*	*	*	*		*
S							*
TR							*

Zone 1

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1-2												*
2-5	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*
6-10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
> 10		*	*				*	*				

Zone 2

[illegible]

Zone 3

1-2	特	特	特			特	特	特	特	特
2-5	特	特	特	特	特	特	特	特	特	特
6-10	特	特	特	特		特	特	特	特	特
> 10	特	特	特	特					特	特

Zone 4

1-2	*	*	*	*
2-5	*	*	*	*
6-10	*	*	*	*
> 10	*	*	*	*

Zone 5

[illegible]

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN:

HARLON H. PEARCE, JR.	4712 RUE LAURENT METAIRIE, LA 70002	504 738 6091 WORK 503 456 2346 HOME
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VICE CHAIRMAN:

JANE BLACK	RT 1 BOX 280 GALLIANO, LA 70354	504 475 6770 WORK 504 475 5620 HOME
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SECRETARY:

CRAIG BORGES	4508 BURKE DR METAIRIE, LA 70003	504 455 3613 WORK 504 523 4002 HOME
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ALFORD WESTER, JR	524 9TH STREET GRETN, LA 70053	504 364 1619
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HARRY BROWN	HC 69, BOX 9A CAMERON, LA 70631	318 569 2475
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RAY CARLINE	P O BOX 718 CHARENTON, LA 70523	318 923 4094
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STEVEN DARGIS	210 POPLAR APT A METAIRIE, LA 70005	504 837 5855
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TONY GAIMBELLUCA	RT 3, BOX 621 COVINGTON, LA 70433	504 893 1703 WORK 505 893 3474 HOME
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CLIFF GLOCKNER, JR	P O BOX 128 LACOMBE, LA 70433	504 882 5755
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TERRY LEBLANC	STAR ROUTE BOX 128 CHAUVIN, LA 70344	504 594 4186
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JIM RICH	P O BOX 759 ABBEVILLE, LA	318 893 4282 WORK 318 643 6700 HOME
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LAWRENCE STIPELCOVITCH "BROTHER"	BOX 272 EMPIRE, LA	504 657 9645
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ERNEST CAROL TRAHAN
PRESIDENT

A. BRENT NUNEZ
VICE PRESIDENT

HAYES P. PICOU, JR.
SECRETARY

E. GARNER NUNEZ
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

POLICE JURY

PARISH OF CAMERON

P. O. BOX 366

CAMERON, LOUISIANA 70631

318/775-5718

DISTRICT 1
ERNEST CAROL TRAHAN

DISTRICT 2
KENNETH M. GUGOTZ

DISTRICT 3
A. BRENT NUNEZ

DISTRICT 4
DOUGLAS CONNER

DISTRICT 5
RAY CONNER

DISTRICT 6
GEORGE LEBDELY

RESOLUTION

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF CAMERON

TO URGE AND REQUEST THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF HAUL SEINES AND SPOTTER PLANES IN THE HARVEST OF THE BLACK DRUM SO THAT THE MORE CONVENTIONAL SET NET OR GILL NET METHOD OF DRUM HARVESTING CAN BE MAINTAINED IN ALL AREAS OF LOUISIANA.

WHEREAS, the Black Drum Fishery has historically been a gill net or set net fishery; and,

WHEREAS, this technique self limits the potential harvest of these fish due to the restrictive nature of the gill net fishery; and,

WHEREAS, the haul seine/spotter plane fishery has drastically increased the harvest of larger Black Drums, which are extremely low in value, but important as spawning stock; and

WHEREAS, the Black Drum harvest from Western Louisiana has not been impacted by the haul seine/spotter plane fishery and is not suffering from any adverse stock reduction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cameron Parish Police Jury urges and requests the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to prohibit the use of haul seines and spotter planes within the Black Drum Fishery and allow only the conventional set net or gill net harvesting method in all areas of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be delivered to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this 5th day of September, 1989.

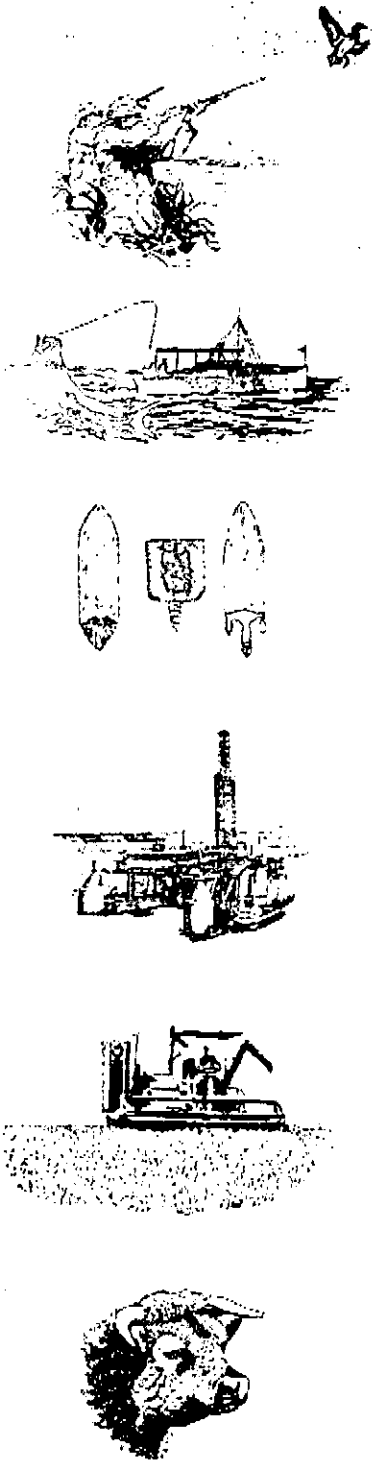
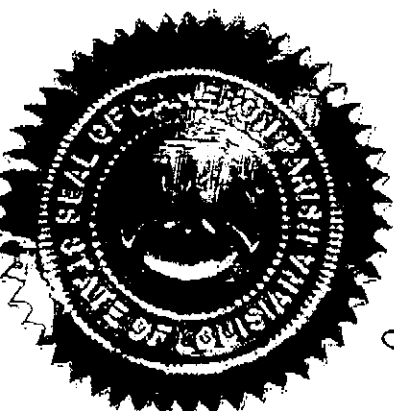
APPROVED:

Ernest C. Trahan
ERNEST CAROL TRAHAN, PRESIDENT
CAMERON PARISH POLICE JURY

ATTEST:

Hayes P. Picou, Jr.
HAYES P. PICOU, JR., SECRETARY

THE HEART OF SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE



September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

John Supran
Name

LA. Cooperative Extension Service
Address
PO Box 2440, Covington, LA 70434
893-4449

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No

_____ 

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

KIP RHOTO

Name

433 YENNIL DR

Address

468-2065

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No



September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Rick Kasoyak
Name

LDWR
Address

2000 Quail Dr
507-765-2375
Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No

X

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

EV Rusich
Name

2515 DELAWARE ST.
Address KENNEL LA 20062

VOX-465-0281
Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No ✓

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Eric M. Lacroix
Name

2918 Metairie Rd
Address
Metairie La. 70001

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No

✓

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Clarence Lagvet, Jr.
Name

400 Royal St
Address

N.O., LA 70117

568-5614
Phone

Do you wish to speak? Yes No ✓

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

FRANK WOOLLEY
Name

832 OAKLAWN
Address
MET. LA. 70005

833-7942
Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No

✓

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Ron Harrell - Louisiana Farm
Name Bureau

9516 Airline
Address Baton Rouge 70895

504 922 6211
Phone

Do you wish to speak? Yes No

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Alice Brown

Name

HC 69-Box 9-A

Address

Clameron, La 70631

318 569-2475

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No

✓

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Jerald Horst

Name LSU Extension

1825 Bonnie Ann Dr

Address

Marrero

341-7271

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No

✓

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

HARRY BROWN
Name

CEMERON LA
Address

518 569 2475
Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

X

No

11.52

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Mitch Chevalier
Name

811 Live Oak
Address Met. LA.

837 4920
Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

☒

No

☐

11.56

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Stephen Dargis
Name

210 Poplar AVE
Address

MET. 70005

8375855
Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes



No

11:57

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

PETER GERICA

Name

RT 6 BOX 185 K

Address

216-3343

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

No

11:59

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

CRAIG B. BORGES

Name

4508 Burke Dr.

Address

met. La 70003

504-455-3613

Phone

12:01

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

✓

No

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Stanley D. Rando
Name

212 Paris Ave
Address

Mt. Airy, Va.

835-9575
Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

☒

No

☐

12:04

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Donald Lyette
Name

5347 GC Rd.
Address

Dulac La
70353

Phone 504 5637009

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

☒

No

☐

12:05

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

HENRY TRULOVE
Name

P.O. Box 292
Address

CHARENTON LA 70523

318-923-7238
Phone

12:10

Do you wish to speak? Yes X No

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Laurel Stipeleit
Name

Expi La. Box 272
Address

Zip 70050

657-9645
Phone

Do you wish to speak? Yes ✓ No

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Name

Walter Sapan to Bollie

Address

1409 Chickasaw
Mt. La

Phone

837-2478

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

☒

No

☐

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Name

Terry LeBlanc

Address

Star Rte Box 128
Chauvin, La. 70344

Phone

504-594-4186

12:20

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

☒

No

☐

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Cliff Glockner Jr
Name

PO Box 128 70445
Address Lacombe La

504-882-5755
Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

✓

No

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

MARK HILZIM
Name

P.O. Box 373
Address

3A LT 70821
(504) 291-4222
Phone

Do you wish to speak? Yes ☒ No ☐

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Tony Giambelluca

Name

R3 Box 621

Address

Cornington LA

(504) 893-3474

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

✓

No

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Ernest Shultz

Name

615 Perrin

Address

689-2149

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

☒

No

☐

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Name

Jane Black

Address

Rt. 1 Box 280
Galliano, LA.

Phone

Organization of Lc.
Fishermen

475-5620

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

X

No

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Peter Siner

Name

525 Stewart

Address

River Ridge, La

737-9567

Phone

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

☒

No

☐

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

Mark Boudreau
Name

107 Choctaw Dr.
Address

467-3751
Phone

Do you wish to speak? Yes ✓ No

September 19, 1989

Special Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Hearing

Black Drum

NESTER A. ALFORD

Name

524 9TH ST.

Address

GRETNA, LA. 70053

1-504-3641619

Phone

BARATARIA BAY
COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN
ASSN.

Do you wish to speak?

Yes

/

No

/